

## Worksheet 8 – Scene Seven

### Review: Lecture 7

In the previous lecture of the unit, McRae explored the developing relationship between Mitch and Blanche in Scene Six.

- ✓ What music did Blanche and her first husband dance to before he committed suicide?

### Recall: Lecture 8

**Complete this task after watching the video lecture to check how much you remember. You can also take the “Module Quiz” online.**

1. What does Stanley reveal to Stella about why Blanche left her teaching job?  
a) She drank in school                      c) She had an affair with a student  
b) She left with no notice                 d) She had an affair with a teacher
2. What is Blanche doing as Stanley and Stella talk during this scene? *Choose two correct answers.*  
a) Bathing                                         c) Looking at the stars                     e) Changing her outfit  
b) Dating Mitch                                 d) Singing                                     f) Putting on makeup
3. How did Stanley and Mitch become friends?  
a) They both trained as engineers             c) Grew up on the same street  
b) Went to school together                     d) Fought in World War Two together

### Analysis

4. There are several key **motifs** that run throughout *A Streetcar Named Desire*. In the last worksheet, we explored the motif of music. Use the images below to mind map key quotations and connotations for the other motifs in the play.



Stars



Washing



Light



Paper



Poker

5. In his lecture, McRae discusses the importance of heat in the setting of the play, stating ‘this is a sweaty play in a sweaty, subtropical environment’.  
a) Look back through the play and find three quotations relating to heat.  
b) What impact does hot setting and sensory description relating to heat have on the atmosphere of *A Streetcar Named Desire*?  
c) How might this connect to key themes in the play?

## Evaluation

6. Look at the lyrics to the song 'Paper Moon' (1933), which Blanche sings while in the bath.

Say, it's only a paper moon  
Sailing over a cardboard sea  
But it wouldn't be make-believe  
If you believed in me

Does Williams present "make-believe" and dreaming as destructive self-delusion, or as something that has an important value, even if it is transient and temporary? Collect ideas for and against in a table. *An example has been given for you.*

<b><i>Dreams are destructive self-delusion</i></b>	<b><i>Dreams are valuable and important</i></b>
- Blanche forces Mitch to play out the role of a gallant suitor, without really caring for him.	- Dreaming is connected to artistic self-expression throughout the play, such as through music.

## Glossary

- **Delusion** – (n.) an irrational belief or impression maintained despite being contradicted by reality or reasoned argument, typically as a symptom of mental disorder.  
*e.g. You must be delusional to still believe the earth is flat.*
- **Motif** – (n.) a dominant recurring idea or image in an artwork.  
*e.g. The motif of bathing is central to 'A Streetcar Named Desire'.*