

Theme

- * Foreboding Blanchette's deterioration which is caused by her stay with the Kowalskis.
- * Violence: "as if struck": Foreboding Stanley's violence towards end of play

Setting

- * Dark, uncomfortable
- * Looking for sanctuary shows that she doesn't feel safe

Character

- * Blanche: appear isolated. Doesn't feel welcome

Dramatic Presentation

- * Stage direction
- * Blanche's mental instability is clear to the audience, it seems as though she is lost
- * Overdramatic, skill performing

Context

- * Gender and attitudes towards women: Stella has more than Blanche because she is married while Blanche is forced to look for sanctuary with her.

Symbolism

- * "Catches her breath" could represent her illness.
- * "dark entrance" connotations of a cave. Shows how Stanley has controlled Stella's life and soon Blanche's...

"She stops before the dark entrance of her sister's flat. Then catches her breath as if struck. She rushes down to the walk before the house. She looks right and left as if for sanctuary." pg 38

SYMBOLISM:
'Varsouviana'
→ motif,
Warsaw tango
→ Stanley

THEME:
Death → B's
first experience,
triggers her
obsession *

SETTING:
Casino → modern,
triggers fear of
modern America

We danced the 'Varsouviana!
Suddenly in the middle of the
dance the boy I had married
broke away from me... A few
moments later - a shot!

CONTEXT:
Stigma attached
to homosexuality
in 1940s
America

CHARACTER:
Has trapped B
in the past →
now incapable
of love

**DRAMATIC
PRESENTATION:**
First audience
understanding of
B's anxiety

SCENE 5

The paper lantern represents the 2 ways Blanche tries to shield herself from the unfamiliarity of her environment:

- facade of wifely vulnerability
- ability that she uses to evoke a sense of her past to escape from the present.

Symbolism

- the promiscuity that she uses to escape the loneliness she created for herself.
- the "paper" represents that her facade is easily seen through.

Context

The atmosphere of sensitivity she creates in the apartment by putting up the 'paper lantern' contrasts the brutal setting of Elysian Fields. She tries to create a false image of herself, reinforcing the contradictory manipulatory nature of her character.

Setting

"Men don't - don't even admit your existence unless they're making love to you... So the soft people have got to shimmer and glow - put a paper lantern over the light" p. 63

Character

GENDER ⇒ the different expectations of gender mean that Blanche has to hide her true personality which contributes to her downfall.

→ Stanley's promiscuity is tolerated whereas Blanche has to conceal hers.

→ Pressure for women to be desirable.

BIANCHE

- trying to protect herself by putting cover over the light shows her trying to change her life. Throughout the play Blanche is associated with the image of a 'moth' which themselves are associated with being attracted to a light which will kill them.

- Blanche identifies herself as 'soft' whereas in actuality she is as manipulative as Stanley, showing her contradictory character.

The fact that Stanley tears the paper lantern off the light cements the ideological conflict between the two.

DRAMATIC PRESENTATION / SYMBOLISM

Stanley becomes aggressive and offensive, and Blanche has only just arrived at Elysian Fields and we can see the quick effect she has on Stanley. Stanley's phrasing in his line contrasts to his subtle colloquial language and this suggests he feels uncomfortable and outnumbered, feeling he needs to assert himself.

CHARACTERISATION:

Shows Stanley's suspiciousness of Blanche and his pride in dissociation with his culture and nation. Highlights his defensiveness and superior attitude. Could highlight Stella's spite loyalty as she doesn't share Blanche's actions.

SETTING:

This line is said in Stanley and Stella's home, within the New South. Could show the elimination of the setting, linked to social class.

"The Kowalski's and the DuBois have different nations"

CONTEXT:

Highlights the changing America and the separation between the New and Old South.

The use of the word "nations" suggests Stanley's idea that men and women have different roles.

THEMES:

Class - conveys Stanley's separation of Blanche and Stella's class and his own.

Gender - both DuBois are women could indicate Stanley's sexist attitude.

Blanche comes to represent the light.

Some kinds "don't like some shades of light. She wants to hide from the harsh light (paper lantern) as she doesn't want to be exposed.

Symbolism - light is associated with exposure but Blanche hides her true self and criticises those who are open.

THEMES: CULTURE, EDUCATION, LIGHT VS DARK

"Such things as art - as poetry and music - some kinds of new light have come into the world since then!" Ellie, Fij, Becky and Phoebe.

(vibrancy of Elysian Fields compared to Blanche covering light with paper lantern), SOCIAL CLASS, GENDER.

CHARACTER: BLANCHE. She represents the light, dying upper class and the dying south. She is an exaggerated female stereotype as she takes an interest in poetry, art and music which were typically gendered.

"Come into the world since then!" - the new South is modern and exciting. Blanche does not belong here.

Social class - poetry and music are important to Blanche vs. Stanley's obsession with gambling/drinking.

Setting - bedroom. Stan & she has intruded on Stella's private life.

DRAMATIC PRESENTATION
Exclamation marks. Highlights her frustration at Stanley. She is discussing culture - may be trying to manipulate Stella. Speech seems rehearsed as it is extremely dramatic.

Claudine - Stanley and Stella belong in Elysian Fields.

links to sexual desire