

Name _____ Date _____

The Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams

Author _____

of pages _____

Main Characters _____

Setting _____

Introduction - How does the play begin?

Symbols - Symbols are objects, characters, figures, or colors used to represent abstract ideas or concepts. What does the fire escape symbolize? What does Laura stumbling on the fire escape symbolize? How is the fire escape symbolic with the character Tom?

Symbols - Discuss the symbol of the glass menagerie. What does it represent? Does it represent the same thing throughout the play, or does its meaning change?

Theme - Themes are the fundamental and often universal ideas explored in a literary work. The most prominent theme is the difficulty the characters have in accepting and relating to reality. Give examples of how each member of the Wingfield family is unable to overcome this difficulty, and each, as a result, withdraws into a private world of illusion because of the lack of comfort the real world provides.

Theme - Another theme in the play is the impossibility of true escape. Use the example of the magician's coffin escape as related to Tom's life and the impossibility of escape. Give three examples from the play to back your answer.

Motifs - Motifs are recurring structures, contrasts, or literary devices that can help to develop and inform the work's major themes. Discuss how the use of music, words, and images plays a part in the development of the intended message. Do they enhance or distract from the mood of what is happening onstage?

Characters - Characters play a central part of any literary work. Who do you think is the main character in the play - Tom, Laura, or Amanda? Is the main character the protagonist or the antagonist? Support your response with specific examples from the play.

Foreshadowing - Foreshadowing is the use of warnings or signs indicating a future event. What signs in the play foreshadow Tom's eventual departure? Give three specific examples and elaborate your response.
