

## Modern Drama

### Discussion Questions for *A Streetcar Named Desire*

Mitch repeats, "Poker should not be played in a house with women" (p. 65). What is the significance of this line (or is it just supposed to be taken at face value)? Blanche and Stanley talk about playing cards in Scene 2, and the closing scene also involves a game of cards. How does the game of cards relate to the interactions between the characters in the play – especially the relationships between men and women?

(This is best discussed after everyone watches the film) What is the role of music in the play? How does it affect the mood and the audience's perception of the characters? How does it affect our perception of Blanche's madness?

Blanche sings a song: "Say, it's only a paper moon, Sailing over a cardboard sea—But it wouldn't be make-believe if you believed in me!" What does this song say about our perceptions of reality? How does it relate to Blanche's relations with Mitch? Stella?

Blanche doesn't want anyone to see her in the light. Why?

Why does Steve have the last line in the play – "The game is seven card stud." How is the last scene different without this line?

How do our perceptions of the characters change over the course of the play?

The title of the play is "A Streetcar Named Desire." What is the role of desire in the play? How does it create tension between the characters? Blanche says she has to change from the streetcar named Desire to the one named Cemeteries to reach the Elysian Fields. How does this relate to her decline in the play?

How is Stella's view of spousal relationships affected by her surroundings (i.e. her neighbors)?

Why is Blanche's jacket in Scene 11 the same blue as the robe in the old Madonna pictures?