

Name _____

Date _____

The Glass Menagerie Essay Test: **choose two (2)** of the following questions and develop a multi-paragraph essay response for each.

You will be graded on the following: 1) content of your analysis; 2) writing for an audience who has read the play; 3) organization and development of ideas; 4) use of language and sentence structure

1. In nearly every scene, Tennessee Williams uses obvious animal imagery and/or symbolism. After all, the family's name is Wingfield. Tom says that man must follow his instincts, while Amanda says man should abide by good social manners. Who is right? Laura, of course, keeps a glass menagerie. Analyze the three major characters, or the family as a whole, in terms of animal imagery and symbolism.

2. In his opening narration, Tom calls his *The Glass Menagerie* a memory play. He says it is not meant to be realistic but truthful, "I give you truth in the pleasant disguise of illusion." Tom, or Tennessee, is remembering his family's past. Amanda remembers Blue Mountain. Laura remembers Jim. We also read the article about Tennessee Williams' mother, called "She Still Has Her Memories." What is the role of memory in the play, and why is it intentionally non-realistic? Why is it so important that this play is framed from Tom's point-of-view?

3. Tom Wingfield says: "Oh, I could tell you things to make you sleepless! My enemies plan to dynamite this place. They're going to blow us all sky-high some night! And will I be glad, will I be happy, and so will you be! And you'll go up, up, up over Blue Mountain on a broomstick, with your seventeen gentlemen callers! You ugly, babbling old witch!" What is the significance of Blue Mountain, the gentlemen callers, and the Old South? What is Tennessee Williams saying about America's past, present, and future—especially after a major war?

REMEMBER: DO NOT MERELY SUMMARIZE PLOT;
WRITE FOR AN AUDIENCE WHO HAS READ THE PLAY

Use the space on the back to pre-write if needed.