



Year 11 Preparation for Study at Loreto College

SUBJECT

English Literature



QUALIFICATION

A Level



PREPARATION TASKS



A Streetcar Named Desire

by Tennessee Williams

- Watch the 1951 film version of the play - this is available on some paid streaming sites, and clips are available on YouTube.
- Read the play - available free online.
- Use a reading journal or any lined paper and complete the following:
- Read and make notes on the playwright Tennessee Williams.

Answer these questions with evidence from the play - quotes or details from the action:

- How far do you sympathise with Blanche Dubois in the play? Why/Why not?
- How far do you sympathise with Stanley Kowalski? Why/Why not?
- What do you think are the messages Williams wanted to put across through the play?

RECOMMENDED READING



We recommend that you read lots of novels – choose any that you have been meaning to read, get recommendations from family and friends. The following novels will be set texts, so try to read them too: ***A Room with a View*** by EM Forster / ***Girl Meets Boy*** by Ali Smith / ***The Reluctant Fundamentalist*** by Mohsin Hamid

Try to read at least one novel written between 1880 and 1910 - Thomas Hardy - ***Tess of the D'Urbervilles*** or ***The Mayor of Casterbridge*** would be a good start, or ***The Collected Stories of Sherlock Holmes*** by Conan Doyle, or a gothic novel such as ***Dracula***, ***The Picture of Dorian Grey***, ***The Yellow Wallpaper*** or ***Jekyll and Hyde***.

RESEARCH



Find out about life in America after the second world war - the play is set just after this and was first performed in 1947. Focus on attitudes to immigrants, life in New Orleans, attitudes towards roles within the family, the status of women, attitudes to homosexuality.

Find out what is meant by The Southern Belle (used to identify Blanche Dubois)
How had the deep south of America changed in terms of slavery and life on former plantations?

Find out what Tennessee Williams meant by Plastic Theatre - another name for this is Expressionist Theatre. How does Williams use this?

The play is a tragedy - find out what these terms mean: tragic hero, nemesis, hamartia, tragic inevitability.

RECOMMENDED WEBSITES



Over the two year course you will also develop your skills of writing about unseen poetry. Use poetry websites to read a wide range of different poetry – perhaps one a day? Add notes to your journal on which poems you read, and your responses to them. You could learn poems by heart or write your own. Here are some suggestions:

[Poetry Foundation](#)

[Poetry Archive](#)

[Poetry Society](#)

[Poem Hunter](#)

[Poetry by Heart](#)

This research work is really useful to do, as it will help you to explore your options for college study. Please be aware that agreed courses will be finalised at enrolment after students have been awarded their GCSE results.