

The Glass Menagerie Questions

Short Answer: *Be sure to answer the following questions in complete sentences.*

Scene 1

Identify Amanda Wingfield, Laura Wingfield and Tom Wingfield.

Where does the play take place?

How does Scene One indicate that Amanda is overbearing and sometimes cruel yet clearly loves her children?

Scene 2

Why did Laura quit business college?

What was Laura actually doing during the hours she was supposed to be in school?

How do you think Amanda knows ". . . what becomes of unmarried women who aren't prepared to occupy a position"?

Why did Jim call Laura "Blue Roses"?

Amanda realizes that Laura will not be able to cope with any kind of career. What is her solution for Laura's future?

Scene 3

Tom opens the scene as the narrator explaining that there is a specter and a hope hovering over the apartment. What is it?

How is Amanda preparing for this gentleman caller?

What ignited the argument between Tom and Amanda?

Why is Tom mad?

Why doesn't Amanda believe Tom goes to the movies?

The pieces of the glass menagerie breaking accidentally are symbolic of Laura. Explain how.

Scene 4

Who is in a "nailed up coffin" and who found a way out of one?

Laura leaves the apartment once and slips on the fire escape. What is Williams symbolically telling us?

Tom and Amanda disagree over what the causes of human actions should be. What does Tom think? What does Amanda think?

What does Amanda ask of Tom?

Scene 5

Amanda is concerned about what aspects of the gentleman caller's character?

Why does Tom try to warn Amanda that Laura is not like other girls and not to count on too much from her when Jim calls?

What can we gather about Amanda's husband's character? Even though we do not see him in the play, we learn some things about him, things which reflect particularly in Tom and Amanda.

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Scene 6

Amanda makes both of these statements: "All pretty girls are a trap, a pretty trap, and men expect them to be." "No girl can do worse than put herself at the mercy of a handsome appearance."

Explain Amanda's double standard.

Give examples showing that Amanda does not understand Laura's feelings of fear.

What does Laura do after she opens the door for Tom and Jim?

What are Tom's plans for the future?

How does Amanda act towards Jim?

Scene 7

Where is Laura?

Jim sits on the floor by Laura and talks to her. How does she react?

What is the significance of Laura's unicorn?

Why does Jim ask Laura to dance?

Jim has made Laura feel more normal than she has ever felt. Explain the significance of the unicorn's being broken.

Why does Jim kiss Laura?

How does Laura react to the kiss?

What causes Laura to retreat back into her solitary world?

Laura sees Jim as a hero with exceptional capabilities. What is Jim actually?

Why does Amanda blame Tom for the evening's failure?