

Advanced Placement Literature and Composition is a senior English course taught at a college level with the content, approaches, and expectations commensurate with a college English course. This is a course which analyzes how an author makes meaning; it deals in elements of style analysis in the novel, drama, and poetry. Students are expected to bring the same dedication, enthusiasm, and scholarly acumen to all their efforts in the class so that we may all learn from one another through various approaches.

Each student must read the following and complete the assignment for each:

***Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* by Jonathan Safran Foer**

Assignment: Complete an MWDS and answer the seven prompts. These will be used as the basis for discussion when we return from summer break.

***Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams**

Assignment: Complete an MWDS and respond to the journal entries. These will be used as the basis for discussion when we return from summer break.

Major Works Data Sheet (MWDS)

Throughout the year, you will complete an MWDS for each novel and play which we read. There are two purposes for this assignment.

1. These will help you prepare for the Major Works Exam in April/May.
2. These will help you prepare for the AP Literature and Composition Exam.

These can be typed or hand-written. The MWDS template will be placed under the summer assignments section on the Cooper Website. You may not simply copy and paste from a website (Schmoop, Sparknotes, etc.), but you may use them as a reference after you have read.

***Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* Responses**

Respond to each prompt. Each entry must be typed, double-spaced, and 1/2 of a page in length. Entries should be 12-pt and Times New Roman font.

1. Discuss how this book addresses the tragedy of 9/11.
2. Describe Oskar's quest and its goals.
3. Explain the ways in which the plot in New York City and the subplot in Dresden inform each other.
4. Discuss the relationship between writing and memory and what role writing plays in the character's lives.
5. Explore the different types of letters that appear in the book and their importance to the story.

6. Analyze the importance of the images in Oskar's scrapbook, *Stuff That Happened to Me*, and explain what they tell us about his character.
7. Discuss the significance of the flip-book images of the falling man at the end of the novel.

***A Streetcar Named Desire* Response Journals**

Respond the one prompt per Scene. Each entry must be typed, double-spaced, and 1/2 of a page in length. Entries should be 12-pt and Times New Roman font.

Scene One

1. Williams' description of the setting at the opening of this scene is extremely detailed and creates a vivid image in our minds as we read it. He not only tells us what the scene looks like, but also how it smells and the kinds of sounds that surround it. "You can almost feel the warm breath of the brown river beyond the river warehouses with their faint redolence of banana and coffee." Even the color of the sky is specified as "a peculiarly tender blue, almost a turquoise." He puts us into the scene. Think of a setting familiar to you: your classroom, your room at home, or a favorite outdoor place, etc. Using the sort of description Tennessee Williams uses, write the notes for a play about your life, setting the scene as thoroughly as Williams does. Remember to describe what it looks like, what it sounds like, and any smells associated with it. Put your audience into a scene from your life.

Scene Two

2. As Stanley rages about Blanche's high-priced wardrobe, Stella is caught between loyalty to her husband and loyalty to her sister. Write an e-mail to Stella, offering her advice on how to deal with the rift between Stanley and Blanche.

Scene Three

3. We get the impression that Mitch is pretty lonely. He lives with his mother and worries that when she dies, he'll be completely alone. As the director of a dating service, write a note to Mitch, giving him advice on how to meet and woo a woman.

Scene Four

4. In this scene, we see a comparison of Blanche and Stella. Blanche is unmarried and depressed. Stella is married to someone who occasionally beats her, yet she's happy. If you could trade places with one of these women, which one would you choose? Write an e-mail to Tennessee Williams, telling him if you would prefer to be Blanche or Stella, and explaining your choice.

Scene Five

5. Blanche has probably always relied on her good looks and charm to get what she wants. Is it easier, do you think, for good-looking people to get ahead? Write the script for a radio show that discusses whether good-looking people have an advantage in life. You may begin like this

Announcer: Good evening. We begin tonight...

Scene Six

6. Mitch is a big guy. He says that he goes to the New Orleans Athletic Club. In fact, he received his membership as a Christmas gift, and he considers it the best gift he ever received. What is the best gift you ever received? Write a short section for a holiday newspaper supplement, detailing the best gift you ever received. Tell your readers, too, why that gift meant so much to you.

Scene Seven

7. According to Stanley, Blanche got into a lot of trouble in Laurel. We already know that Blanche drinks a lot, but apparently she is also pretty promiscuous. If Blanche and Stella were living today, Stella might call for an intervention to stop Blanche's self-destructive behavior. Write a speech to be given by Stella at an intervention for Blanche. Make sure your speech includes examples of how hurtful Blanche's actions are to her and to those who love her.

Scene Eight

8. At this point, we've gotten to know all of the major characters in this play. Of all of these people, which would you most like to have as a friend? Write a short essay in which you select a character from *A Streetcar Named Desire* whom you would like to befriend and list what you most like about that character.

Scene Nine

9. Blanche tells us that the opposite of death is desire. Keeping that in mind, write a short section for an online literature database, telling readers what motivates Blanche to drink and sleep around.

Scene Ten

10. Blanche tells Stanley that although physical beauty fades, "beauty of the mind...and tenderness of the heart...grow." Do you find that to be true in real life? When we think of the most beautiful people in the world, we often think of actors and actresses. Write a letter to a famous actor or actress, echoing Blanche's comments and telling that person about how one's spirit is more important than their physical beauty.

Scene Eleven

11. This play has been produced numerous times on stage, on TV, and on film. Probably the best known version is the film version, which starred Marlon Brando as Stanley Kowalski and Vivien

Leigh as Blanche DuBois. If you were casting a new movie version of *A Streetcar Named Desire*, who would you choose to play the leading roles? Select modern actors to play Stanley, Stella, Blanche, and Mitch. Tell who you chose and why you think they would do well in those particular roles.