

**Worksheet 2: Extending Analysis (Teacher Version)**

This worksheet provides students opportunity to extend the analysis they began in their earlier work on this play. Their goal is to extend beyond generalizations about Williams’ treatment of his themes to a detailed appreciation of the subtleties of what the play communicates (or “means”).

Enter the following information in the columns on the graph:

**Column 1.** Choose one of the following themes and enter it in line above the table.

- Reality is subjective
- “Memory” is valuable
- Modern urban culture is dehumanizing and grotesque
- Life in mid-20<sup>th</sup>-century America causes angst

**Column 1.** List two examples of expressionist techniques and instances in the play relevant to that theme. (Include quotations and other evidence from the text of the play)

**Column 2.** Discuss the impact of the two expressionist techniques/instances on the theme. (How do they advance, complicate, refine, extend, or contradict the theme?)

**Column 3.** Discuss how each of the two expressionist techniques/instances and the theme work together. In other words, explain the truth about life Williams is trying to convey to the audience or reader.

**Theme:** *Life in mid-20<sup>th</sup>-century America causes angst*

<b>Examples of expressionist techniques/instances from the play (include quotations)</b>	<b>How do these techniques/ instances impact the theme?</b>	<b>How do these techniques/instances and the theme work together to impact the audience or reader? What truth is being conveyed?</b>
Spatial device: Fire escape (“a structure whose name is a touch of accidental poetic truth, for all of these huge buildings are always burning with the slow and implacable fires of human desperation.”)	Complicates the theme—making the fire escape a symbol for two opposing life experiences:  (1) A metaphor for being imprisoned in a life of loneliness—burning desperation (2) A device for escaping a desperate situation.	They offer the audience a way to cope with an ambivalence we all feel. Modern life brings up a duality of desperate feelings of imprisonment (with stressful situations we must put up with) and hopeful feelings of freedom (with opportunities to escape: we can leave the nest and take flight into a larger world.)

**Why Expressionism? “The Glass Menagerie”: A Common Core Exemplar**

<p>Atmospheric lighting that is expressive of emotion. Scene 7: When dinner is finishing up and lights go out. Candles are lit and the scene continues. (“Isn’t electricity a mysterious thing? We live in such a mysterious universe, don’t we?”)</p>	<p>Advances the theme and also contradicts it. With the lights out, the candles prove that even though modern life is dependent on electricity, there are stronger forces that hold us together (such as empathy and compassion). In addition, the candlelight exposes Laura’s inner beauty to the Gentleman Caller.</p>	<p>Though modern human life has evolved to make people dependent on technologies such as electric lights, we can make do without them (at least for brief periods.) Electric lights are not necessary to make powerful connections. Perhaps our sight operates on a deeper level when the electricity is off—allowing us to observe things hiding below the surface?</p>