

The Glass Menagerie – by Tennessee Williams

Journal

Respond to **two** of the four journal prompts. Your responses must be thorough and thoughtful. Write at least one full page.

Scene One

What similarities do you find between the Wingfields and the family in “The Life You Save May Be Your Own”? In what ways are the two families different? Why do you think so many writers during this period (1930s-40s) focused on family dynamics?

Scene Two

At the end of Scene 2 Amanda has decided that the cure to all their problems is for Laura to get married. Laura (in terror at the thought) tells her mother “I’m – crippled!” (Williams 17). Look at Amanda’s response to her daughter’s declaration. Do you think this is a good or bad response? Why?

Scene Three

In the argument between Amanda and Tom, Amanda confronts Tom about his behavior at home and, presumably, at his job. She demands to know, “What right have you got to jeopardize your job? Jeopardize the security of us all? (Williams 23). Is this a fair question? Why or why not? With whom do you sympathize more in this argument?

Scene Four

At the beginning of Scene 4, Tom tells Laura about a magic trick in which a man, who had been nailed into a coffin, got out without removing any nails. Tom said, “You know it don’t take much intelligence to get yourself into a nailed-up coffin, Laura. But who in hell ever got himself out of one without removing one nail?” (Williams 27). Pay attention to the lighting just after this statement. What do you think is the significance of these images—the coffin, the nails, the portrait?