Study Questions: *A Streetcar Named Desire*

**Directions:**

For 10/10—read scenes 1-6 (pages 1979-2022); for 10/17—finish play

Take notes/annotate your copy of the play to mark evidence as proof for your responses to the study questions. (Some questions will be answered in the second half of the play.) **Response paper 3 is based on some of these questions**, so take time and care to answer them:

**Blanche Dubois**
- Note moments in the opening scene where Blanche is being less than truthful with Stella and Stanley
- Is Blanche a classist? A snob?
- Is she a flirt?
- A drunk?
- Is she as fragile as she seems or is some or all of it an act?
- Is she insane?

**Stella Dubois Kowalski**
- Note the scenes where Stella is less than forthright, the places where she fails to relay **key information** to Blanche and Stanley
- How do you explain that behavior?
- How would you characterize her as a person?
- How do you explain her denial of the rape? What is her motivation?

**Stanley Kowalski**
- What does Stanley reveal about his character during his “Napoleonic rant”?
- Note where Stanley is deliberately cruel to Blanche?
- How would you characterize him?

**Mitch**
- What is your assessment of Mitch?
- Does Blanche really care about him or is she drawn to him for other compelling reasons? What are they? Is it a combination of reasons? If so, what are they?
- Why is he friends with Stanley?
General Discussion Questions

- Describe Stanley and Stella’s life together. Imagine a typical day.
- Be clear about how Belle Reve was lost.
- Who is responsible for the way things end (may be more than one character or set of circumstances)?
- What themes can you identify in the play? For example, one might argue that this is a play about basic survival.