***A Streetcar Named Desire* Webquest**

* Directions: Use the internet to find answers to the following questions. Make sure that your sources are credible! . Also, know that Williams’ family did not have a lot of money, and that he creates memorable, exotic characters, which he explores through the unconscious mind; he is especially noted for his realistic portrayal of female characters in conflict with their worlds.

**Biographical information and work**

* Where did Tennessee Williams come from? What is his real name? Who are his parents? What kind of childhood did he have?
* What kind of education did Williams have? Who were the people who influenced Williams' writing most?
* Who were Rose and Frank Merlot? How did his relationships with these people influence his writing and his life?
* What are some of the issues (mental, physical, social, etc) that he dealt with throughout his life?
* How were his plays received? Were they popular?
* What awards did he win, and for what?
* How and when did he die?

**Time period and Setting**

* What is New Orleans famous for? What are some of the famous places in New Orleans and why are they famous?
* Does New Orleans still use its streetcars? Why were they important to the city?
* What was the music like that is characteristic of New Orleans?
* In many texts, what does New Orleans tend to represent?
* What would a typical plantation look like? What products did the plantations in New Orleans produce?
* Describe some of the major American historical events that occurred around and leading up to 1947 (when the play was written).
* Tennessee Williams was a homosexual. What were the laws concerning homosexuality at the time?
* The true gentleman and the Southern Belle are references to the deep traditions of the South. What does a young man need to know to become a gentleman? How should Southern Belles behave? Why do men and women from the South need to follow a code of conduct to become a '*gentleman'* and a '*belle'?*