**Streetcar Named Desire**

**Motifs and Lenses Activity**

**Part 1 Directions**: In a small group, you will be assigned one of the following motifs. Go through the text and find all of the moments when these motifs appear. Then, on a separate sheet of paper, write down the following:

* The line, either in dialogue or in the stage directions, when your motif is mentioned.
* What is happening in the moments just before and during your quote
* What could it mean?

We will share out at the conclusion of this activity. AT that time, you can take notes on what other groups have found.

Formalist Lens—Motifs and symbols

* Music
* Light
* Flowers—roses, lilies, etc.
* Alcohol
* Bright, vivid colors vs. pale, white colors.
  + Also look at the clothing choices here
* Bathing and water

**Part 2 Directions:** Your group will also be given a critical lens. Look at the play through your lens. What themes would emerge? What systems of symbols stand out to you now? Use the questions below to help guide your understanding.

Other Critical Lenses

* **Marxist lens**—consider how **class and wealth** impact and play out in the story. Ask: what is this story saying about class and wealth? What could each of the characters represent?
* **Feminist** **lens**—consider how **gender** impact and play out in the story. Ask: what is this story saying about gender? What could each of the characters represent?
* **Psychological** **lens**—consider how **psychology** impact and play out in the story. Ask: what are the character’s mental states? How are they related to their desires, their suppressed emotions, or their sexual natures? There are several ideas of reality vs. fantasy in the play—where are they and how do they play out?