

'Passion is both liberating and imprisoning'.
Compare and contrast ways in which two of your chosen writers
present relationships in the light of this comment.

Tennessee Williams was the writer of 'A Streetcar Named Desire', and some of the themes are based on his life such as insanity, death and love. Williams portrays the themes of love through various ways from the different characters.

The love and passion are seen by Stanley Kowalski and his wife Stella and between Stella's paranoid sister Blanche and Mitch.

The play portrays passion; love and sex, as liberating to Stanley.

In scene 2, the audience sees Stanley's frustrated and quick-tempered side to his personality which is seen throughout the play. As the audience we see how Stanley and Stella interact with each other, but we don't notice any passion between them as Stanley seems to be very impolite to his wife and treats her like his personal servant and does not expect her to tell him what to do as he is seen as the king of the household which foreshadows to scene eight. *'Since when do you give me orders?'*

In scene 3, Stanley's anger is seen and he dominates Stella physically, and due to this Stella runs away to her neighbour, but her love for Stanley is too strong. When Stanley finally realises what he's done he rushes straight towards the house where Stella is, *'Stella! My baby doll's left me!...I want my baby!...Stella!...Stella!'*.

As Stella can't stay away from him, she decides to confront him, but no words are exchanged. Stanley falls to his knees and they hug passionately.

It's not the first time he hit her but Stella can't seem to leave him alone, so it appears as a physical magnet. As there is no conversation, it is just a sexual pleasure between Stella and Stanley. She is liberated from his new world behaviour and she is free to enjoy the passion.

In this scene, Blanche meets Mitch and she finally feels she has met someone who can full-fill her needs. He is everything she expects in a man; polite, sensitive and

very much from the old world.

In scene seven, we find out that Blanche used to go to The Flamingo and that was where she used to have sex with many different men. She used sex to liberate herself to escape from the reality world and escape the horrid past that she experienced such as her family suffering, losing Belle Reve and the suicide of her homosexual husband. So her liberation is to escape.

Blanche is still stuck in the past as she is imprisoned by her passion for her late homosexual husband Alan Grey. She believes that it was her fault for his death and so she tries to escape the guilt and sorrow of her inattentive action. 'It was because - on the dance-floor - unable to stop myself - I'd suddenly said - "I know! I know! You disgust me.."'

Blanche drinks, which is another form of her imprisonment to escape the realities yet again. She is also imprisoned from all the lies she has made to cover up her past from Stanley, Stella and Mitch, but she does not succeed as she is caught out by Stanley.

After Stanley rapes her, Stella doesn't want to believe it's true as she is used to Blanche lying all the time and so she decides to send her in a mental institution where she is literally imprisoned, but due to the rape Blanche's mind gives way which makes her much worse than before.

Stella is imprisoned by her passion for Stanley and this is one of the reasons why she decides to send Blanche away as Stella wants to continue living with him especially as she has their baby and so in order to this, she has to reject the truth that her husband has raped her beloved sister which caused her insanity. Stella sacrifices Blanche to the 'coloured lights' of passion with her husband Stanley. *'I don't know if I did the right thing...I couldn't believe her story and go on living with Stanley.'* Stella is truly imprisoned by her love and passion for Stanley as she finds it too difficult to be away from Stanley, even if he has caused some hatred in their relationship, *'I can hardly stand it when he is away for a night... When he's away for a week I nearly go wild!'*

Tennessee Williams shows how passion is both liberating and imprisoning through the lies, the drinking, anger and the over-powering from the characters. He indicates to the readers that relationships are not perfect, but love can be portrayed through various ways. For Stanley and Blanche sex is there liberation, and so Blanche believes that love is all based around sex and not the romance between the couple. Both Stella and Blanche's liberation is the dependence of men but for opposite reasons. Williams uses Blanche's and Stella's dependence on men to expose and critique the treatment of women during the transition from the old to the new South. Both Blanche and Stella see male companions as their only means to achieve happiness, for Blanche it's sex and to receive compliments and for Stella to feel loved and have a companion. But when Blanche meets Mitch, that is also liberating for her as she then sees marriage to Mitch as her means of escaping destitution.