

THE GLASS MENAGERIE takes place in the 1930's in St Louis, Missouri
Characters in the play.

Amanda Wingfield – the overbearing mother

Tom Wingfield, her son who financially supports the family, yet dreams of becoming a merchant marine.

Laura Wingfield, her daughter, who has a limp. She collects glass figurines.

Jim O'Connor, the gentleman caller who visits the Wingfield family.

Scene by scene synopsis.

Scene 1: An introduction to the Wingfield family; the mother, Amanda, the son, Tom and the daughter, Laura. They are having dinner together.

Scene 2: Amanda goes to the business college to discuss her daughter's progress. She finds out that her daughter has not attended her typing classes. She returns home and confronts Laura.

Scene 3: Laura and her mother discuss the boy that Laura once liked in high school.

Scene 4: Tom discovers that his mother has thrown out his beloved book, by D.H Lawrence. They fight; Tom leaves and goes to a bar.

Scene 5: Tom returns and apologizes for calling his mother a witch. Amanda, the mother, is worried about Laura and asks her son to invite a potential date, a gentleman caller, for Laura.

Scene 6: Tom tells his mother that he has invited his friend to dinner. Amanda and Laura wish for happiness and good fortune.

Scene 7: Amanda and Laura prepare for the date.

Scene 8: Jim O'Connor, the gentleman caller, enters the Wingfield household. He meets Laura. Tom tells Jim about his dream of moving out and joining the merchant marine.

Scene 9: Amanda prepares dinner for the family and the gentleman caller.

Scene 10: Jim and Laura begin their date together in the living room. Laura tells him that she remembers him from high school. He remembers her, too, when he remembers that he called her Blue Roses in high school.

Scene 11: They talk about what they have been doing since high school. Laura tells him about her glass collection, her glass menagerie. She shows him her favorite one- a unicorn. They hear music playing and dance together.

Scene 12: Amanda enters, hoping to find Laura and Jim in good spirits. She discovers that Jim has a girlfriend, a fiancée, and is about to be married. Her hopes for Laura are destroyed.

Vocabulary

gentleman caller—a potential date, a possible boyfriend

deception -- telling a lie

to be bewildered -- to be confused

business college-- college to teach business skills, such as typing

gone up in smoke -- disappeared

pleurosis – an illness of the lungs

opium dens – bars where drugs are sold

gambling casinos -- casinos where people bet money

broomstick – a reference to a witches’ method of traveling

glass menagerie -- a collection of glass animals

drunkard -- a person who drinks all the time.

handwriting on the wall – seeing the future

Merchant Marine -- a military person who works on a ship.
Similar to the Navy

victrola – an old fashioned record player

clumping -- a loud sound

to be spoiled -- a person who has been given all that he/she wants

indigestion -- stomach discomfort

unicorn – a mythical creature that never existed

freakish -- not normal

I’ve got strings on me --I’m not free to act

going steady -- going out with one person, exclusively

souvenir –something kept as a reminder of a person, place, or event

the cat’s not out of the bag -- no one knows

The Glass Menagerie

Characters

Amanda Wingfield – the mother

Tom Wingfield, her son who financially supports the family, yet dreams of becoming a merchant marine.

Laura Wingfield, her daughter, who has a limp. She collects glass figurines.

Jim O'Connor, the gentleman caller who visits the Wingfield family.

1. The mother cares for her family, she cooks, sends her daughter to school, wants her daughter to find a boyfriend and get married, asks her son not to smoke and help his sister find a boyfriend (gentleman caller).

Give some examples, where you see any of these situations during the play:

2. Laura Wingfield has a physical condition and she is shy because of that. She attended Business School for a few days until something happened to her and she stops going, but she doesn't tell her mother. she likes to collect glass figurines and she finds her high school book where she sees the picture of a boy she liked and he used to call her not by her name.

Give some examples where you see these situations during the play:

3. Tom Wingfield is working to support his family; he tries to find something to distract himself, and he loses his temper when his mother reprimands him.

Give some examples where you see these situations during the play:

4. Jim O'Connor is invited to have dinner with the Wingfield family and meet Laura as a possible boyfriend. he finds out that he was in Laura's high school and met her before, they have a good time until he reveals that he is engaged.

Give some examples where you see these situations during the play:

Issues in the play

Secrets:

What characters have secrets and what secrets are those?

Dreams and Expectations:

What dreams and hopes does each character have?

Lies:

How do you see that the characters lie in the play?

Family Relationships:

How do you see the family relationships in the play?
