

Worksheet 1. Expressionist Techniques in *The Glass Menagerie*

Name: _____

Date: _____

Teacher: _____

Class: _____

Expressionist techniques in modern theatre:

- Internal experience that is subjective, not objective or real
- Fragmented characters that are often social or spiritual archetypes
- Abstract space/time that is suggestive and symbolic, not explicitly stated
- Atmospheric lighting that is expressive of emotion
- Spatial devices that are suggestive and symbolic, not explicitly stated (i.e., staircases)
- Acting style that includes expressive movements and loud utterances

Tennessee Williams used these characteristics to relate the following themes:

- Reality is subjective
- “Memory” is valuable
- Modern urban culture is dehumanizing and grotesque
- Life in mid-20th-century America causes angst

Instructions: Enter the information requested in the boxes for each of Williams’ expressionist techniques. The techniques have already been listed for you in Column 1.

Column 2. List examples of each technique from the play using quotations from the text.

Column 3. Indicate “toward what ends” Williams was driving when he included these expressionist techniques in *The Glass Menagerie*—identify which theme Williams was trying to get across to the audience or reader.

In the space below write your initial thoughts about the connections being expressed between the examples and Williams’ themes. Use quotations from the text.

Note that some of your examples may illustrate more than one expressionist characteristic. Put them wherever they fit, but be sure to answer “toward what ends?” for each.

Expressionist Technique	Examples from <i>The Glass Menagerie</i> (include quotations)	Toward what ends? (Identify which theme is being expressed)
Internal experience that is subjective		

Why Expressionism? "The Glass Menagerie": A Common Core Exemplar

Initial thoughts		
Characters that are fragmented		
Initial thoughts		
Abstract time or space references that are suggestive and symbolic		

Why Expressionism? "The Glass Menagerie": A Common Core Exemplar

Initial thoughts		
Atmospheric lighting that conveys emotion		
Initial thoughts		
Spatial devices that are suggestive and symbolic		

Why Expressionism? "The Glass Menagerie": A Common Core Exemplar

Initial thoughts		
Acting style that includes expressive movements and/or loud utterances		
Initial thoughts		