

Scene Two

1. Stella's telling Stanley how to behave around Blanche clearly shows that she knows Blanche well and can predict her reactions to certain things. For example, Blanche feeds off of male affection and holds complements from men to a higher regard than those from women. This is because she has a need, as a fading southern belle, to feel like she's still attractive- something that a woman's complement can not reassure her. Nevertheless, Stella knows that Blanche has been through a traumatic time and needs Stanley to co-operate with her so as to not make Blanches state worse;

2. Stella has acknowledged/concluded that Stanley and Blanche aren't going to get along because they are such binary opposites- Stella needs to emphasize the way Stanley should behave towards her, perhaps so that he knows what is expected of him or as a way of informing him in advance that he may not like her, though should still be kind to her despite as she is Stella's sister and she can be quite sensitive/seemingly melodramatic.

3. Just as Stella presumed, Stanley is finding means to dislike her sister, primarily with the misunderstood loss of Belle Reve which leads him to form suspicions about Blanche, some of which he will later struggle/not want to let go of, perhaps due to the nature of his and Blanche's relationship where, in conversation, they each try to acquire the upper hand, antagonising each other in the process. Stanley proposes that Blanche has breached the 'Napoleonic code'. The idea seems to spark a rage in him as he assumes that Blanche is, once again, trying to outsmart him and he feels fooled. Hence he holds onto the idea, developing it further as he speaks of "acquaintances" who can "appraise" her possessions to show that she has selfishly spent "all of the money" from Belle Reve on herself. However, had his reference to the law ever been true to Blanches situation-it only applies to Louisiana, of which Belle Reve isn't situated- it would still hold no significance as she didn't sell her home; she lost it.

4. In order to give Stanley's suspicions some grounds, he invades Blanche's trunk and tosses her belongings all over the place, listing them off as he does so: feathers; furs- fox fur pieces; costume jewellery. The use of hyperboles by Stanley, including 'half a mile long' fox fur, 'the treasure chest of a pirate', 'ropes of pearls' and 'crown for an empress' emphasize his points and attempt to plant the idea in Stella's head that they are being "swindled" by Blanche. This alludes to the idea that Stanley wants Stella to be on his side; he knows the aristocratic background she comes from and which Blanche represents, and perhaps feels as though he is losing or competing for her since Blanche arrived on the scene and immediately expressed her disapproval of Stanley. He may feel that Stella is blind to Blanche's 'true colours' and wants to present her in a negative light to divert Stella's attention back to himself.

5. Despite Stanley's speculations, Blanche explains herself and simply hands him the forms to prove him wrong, sharing the story behind the loss and taking Stanley's foolishness as an opportunity to, once again, win the upper hand with her sarcastic and condescending manner of conversation. She asks Stanley, 'what's going on in that little boys mind of yours?', which humiliates him by suggesting that he's immature and incompetent and lacks qualities that she possesses. These constant reminders that Blanche is more clever than Stanley irritates him as he doesn't like/can't handle/isn't used to being made to feel like a fool, and is being disrespected in his own home.