
Stella Kowalski

- ✳ **Name:** From Blanche's point of view, "Stella" has a symbolic meaning as Blanche frequently refers to her as "Stella for Star" (S1 – P6) probably implying social status as well as sentimentality towards her name. Whilst Stanley on the other hand refers to Stella as "STELLAHHHH" (S3 – P43) which sounds far less aristocratic.
- ✳ **Personality & Treatment:** Similarly to Blanche, Stella is a sexually active woman who expresses her everyday passionate feelings through sex. This could suggest she has become inferior to her previous social status, due to the fact that when she and her husband are together, her civilised mannerism disappears and she becomes primitive, making "animal moans" (S3 – P44). She does however still care deeply for Blanche, as she does her best to protect and care for her the same way Blanche does in reverse. However she values her husband Stanley highly, more than her own flesh and blood as she refuses to simultaneously "believe" (S11 – P114) Stanley raped Blanche and continue to live with him.
- ✳ **Relationship status:** Married to Stanley, but is the less dominant in her relationship. For example when they are taking Blanche away to the asylum, Stella cries for her sister and begs for them to stop "hurting" (S11-P121) her. Stanley however refuses to listen to what Stella has to say and continues with his selfish plan. There is a hierarchy in her marriage shown through her frequent "weak crying" (S8 – P89) throughout the play and her passive responses to his never ending commands. Stella is objectified in her relationship & is seen as Stanley's toy "his fingers finding the opening of her blouse" (S11 – P124)
- ✳ **Themes linked to Stella:**
 - **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE / HIERARCHY IN MARRIAGE** – A drunk Stanley attacks his "pregnant" (S3 – P41) wife Stella and makes up for it through sex. Because of her deep infatuation and love for Stanley, Stella forgives and continues to live with him.
 - **SOCIAL CLASS** – Blanche is appalled with Stella's living conditions in comparison to Belle Reve; shown by her horrified expression when she is introduced to her new home. However she is even more horrified with the low level of social rank Stella has settled with. Stanley recognises the difference in status but enables Stella to realise how she prefers how "common" he is (S8 – P93).