

- The men are dressed in colored shirts, and “they are men at the peak of their physical manhood, as coarse and direct and powerful as the primary colors”
- The comparison of the role of men in society to primary colors paints them as the holistic center of society.
- Making blanche, who through her name and her costume design, being “daintily dressed in a white suit” is a non-colour, but still shares something of that masculinity as she is dressed in a suit.
- Stanley’s masculinity is presented as animalistically brutal through actions in the stage directions such as ‘stalks fiercely’ and ‘charges’, after Stella and then strikes her, resorting to physical violence, and making him seem like an animal in his fulfillment of this masculine role.
- His masculinity is also exerted over women, namely Stella and Blanche, with Stella ‘backing away’, showing her fear. Blanche likewise is scared of him, she says “There’s even something- sub-human -something not quite to the stage of humanity yet!” here, the use of only exclamation marks and scripted non-fluency by Williams in Blanche’s description of Stanley reveals her fear and desperation of this violent and animalistic masculinity.

Paragraph two:

- Williams was a homosexual man who lived with his lover Frank Merlo for 15 years and wrote some of his greatest plays during that time.
- **Masculinity is presented as a societal construct that is practiced in some people and disapproved of in others**
- William said that Blanche is his self insert character, as indeed he shares many traits with her, such as the tendency towards alcoholism, the charming nature, the slight hysterical tendencies, the lying about their age, the tendency to be immersed in a world of make-believe (for blanche this is her pretending things aren’t as they really are, for Williams this is his playwriting) and finally and most crucially, the manner of their desire, which is frowned upon by society- both homosexuality and women trying to own their sexuality was seen as outrageous- and, indeed, in the initial productions, both the references to homosexuality and to Blanche’s implied prostitution were removed.
- This leads to a setup of an Aristotelian classic Greek tragedy which foreshadows her downfall. The play is a tragedy because its protagonist suffers an unfortunate fate and is fundamentally destroyed and lost at the play’s end- and Blanche is driven to her end by masculinity.
- Williams is commenting on the social construct of masculinity and how the same traits that are praised in men are despised in women, and the way that men and