

**Who is Blanche?**

In the play she is spoken about both by herself and by a lot of other characters; sometimes characters give their own opinions, sometimes they are reporting what they have heard from others and sometimes it is Blanche who gives the information. It is difficult to tell from any of the characters, including Blanche, who is telling the truth.

Look at the following comments by some of the characters in scenes one to four and decide who you think the person is talking to, what you think it suggests about Blanche, her past, her personality and what it possibly tells us about the character speaking.

Eunice	Por nada, as the Mexicans say, por nada! Stella spoke of you. (p.17)
Stanley	... Stella spoke of you a good deal. You were married once, weren't you? ... What happened? (p.31)
Stella	I'm going to try to keep Blanche here till the party breaks up because I don't know how she would take it. (p.32)
Stella	When she comes in be sure to say something nice about her appearance. (p.33)
Stanley	All right. I'll wait till she gets through soaking in a hot tub and then I'll inquire if <i>she</i> is acquainted with the Napoleonic code. It looks to me like you have been swindled, baby, and when you're swindled under the Napoleonic code I'm swindled <i>too</i> . And I don't like to be swindled. (p.35)
Stella	There's plenty of time to ask her questions later if you do now she'll go to pieces again. (p.35)
Stanley	Look at those feathers and furs that she comes here to preen herself in! (p.35)
Stanley	Put 'em down! Ropes of them! What is this sisters of yours, a deep-sea diver? Bracelets of solid gold, too! Where are your pearls and gold bracelets? (p.36)
Stella	Talk sense! How did you happen to get so low on funds? (p.69)
Stanley	You won't pick up nothing here you ain't heard before. (p.76)

Continue to record characters' comments about Blanche as you study the play, each time considering what impression this gives us of Blanche, what it tells us about the person speaking and why Williams might have included the lines.