creative writing assignment adapted from one of those novel guides

# Group #1: 2 females & 1 male *A Streetcar Named Desire*             Acting Out Conflicts

Directions: Write a play with 3 characters that is at least three pages long that explicitly or implicitly includes the answers to the “To Consider” questions.

## Character 1 (female)

Situation: You have just arrived for a visit at your sister's house. This is the first time that you have seen her home and encountered her husband. Although you are not positively impressed with either, you are trying to be polite and hide your feelings.

To Consider: In what kind of environment did you expect to find your sister? What is the reality of the situation? What is it about your brother-in-law, on first meeting, you find annoying or even intolerable? To what extent are you able to keep your feelings hidden from your sister and her husband?

## Character 2 (female)

Situation: You have expected the arrival of your sister, but you failed to inform your husband of her visit. You are happy to see her again but are also nervous.

 To Consider:

Why didn't you tell your husband of your sister's visit? Are you afraid that your husband and sister will not get along? Why? How will you try to bridge the gap between them?

## Character 3 (male)

Situation: Your sister-in-law, whom you have never met, has arrived unexpectedly. You sense that she does not approve of you.

 To Consider: How do you feel about her unannounced visit? How does her disapproval of you affect your feelings towards her? How do you feel about your wife's obvious joy at seeing her sister? Will you try to be courteous or let her know how you feel?

# Group #2: 2 females or (2 males)                        A Streetcar Named Desire                        Acting Out Conflicts

Directions: Write a play with 2 characters that is at least three pages long that explicitly or implicitly includes the answers to the “To Consider” questions.

## Character 1

Situation: You feel that your sister's (or brother's) spouse is inferior, and you try to make this fact known to your sister (or brother).

To Consider: What is it about this person that you intensely dislike? Why do you think this person is inferior to you and your family? How will you try to make your sister (or brother) see this? What do you hope to gain from this confrontation?

## Character 2

Situation: You love both your spouse and your sister (brother), but it is obvious they do not get alone. Your sister (brother) is, in effect attacking your spouse in a confrontation with you.

To Consider: How close is your relationship to your sister (brother)? Are you accustomed to taking her/his advice? Are you afraid to hurt her/his feelings? How far are you willing to be pushed before losing your temper? Are you a peacemaker? How will you defend your spouse, if at all?

# Group #3:  2 males, (2 females), or (1 male & 1 female)            A Streetcar Named Desire            Acting Out Conflicts

Directions: Write a play with 2 characters that is at least three pages long that explicitly or implicitly includes the answers to the “To Consider” questions.

## Character 1

Situation: Your best friend has been dating someone of whom you do not approve. You have recently been given damaging information about this person's character, and you now confront your friend with this information.

To Consider: What is the information that has been disclosed to you? What or who was your source, and is it reliable? What are your motives for telling your friend?

## Character 2

Situation: You have been dating a person that your best friend dislikes. Your friend has come to you with information about this person's character that is very upsetting.

To Consider: Can you trust your friend? Why or why not? How deep is your friendship with the person confronting you and your relationship with the person you are dating? How is the discussion affecting you emotionally? Ultimately, will you accept or reject the information you are given?

# Group #4: 1 male & 1 female            *A Streetcar Named Desire*             Acting Out Conflicts

Directions: Write a play with 2 characters that is at least three pages long that explicitly or implicitly includes the answers to the “To Consider” questions.

## Character 1 (male)

Situation: Your wife's sister has been staying with you for an extended period of time. As a result, your life has changed, and you don't like it. In addition, you don't trust your sister-in-law. You are now confronting your wife about the situation.

To Consider: How has your life been disrupted? Does your wife have less time for you? Do you feel uncomfortable with a virtual stranger under the same roof? What is it about your sister-in-law that you don't trust? Is it her behavior, something she has said, or something others have told you? What do you hope to accomplish in this confrontation? Sympathy from your wife? The departure of your sister-in-law?

## Character 2 (female)

Situation: Your husband dislikes your sister and the fact that she has been staying with you for an extended period of time. He is now confronting you with this situation.

To Consider: What is your relationship with your sister? Is she dependent on you In any way? Why is she staying with you? How has your life been affected by her presence? Is there any truth to your husband's accusations? Can you make your husband see a positive side to your sister? Are you capable of resolving the tension between the two people that you love?

# Group #5: 1 male & 1 female            *A Streetcar Named Desire*             Acting Out Conflicts

Directions: Write a play with 2 characters that is at least three pages long that explicitly or implicitly includes the answers to the “To Consider” questions.

## Character 1 (female)

Situation: You keep a terrible secret hidden within you. You feel responsible for the death of a person that you had deeply loved. Recently you have become acquainted with a man who has also experienced loneliness and death. In an intimate moment you tell him your story.

To Consider: What was your relationship to the person who died? What did you do that makes you feel responsible for this person's death? Could you have acted otherwise? Why are you now revealing this element of your past to the man before you? Do you hope to gain anything from this revelation?

## Character 2 (male)

Situation: You not only feel comfortable with the woman before, but you also feel attracted to her and think you may be falling in love with her. You have both led lonely lives. She is now revealing to you a secret of her past life.

To Consider: Does her revelation take you by surprise? As she tells you her story, what is your spontaneous reaction? Shock? Empathy? Disgust? Are you going to hide your reaction from her or not? Do you now see her in a different light? How will this incident affect your future relationship?