

# Literary Contexts: American Literature

## *A Streetcar Named Desire* in Context

### Comprehension Questions

Watch the video carefully, and complete the comprehension questions and activities.

1. Why did Tennessee Williams cling closely to his female relatives?

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2. Name three unalienable rights identified in the Declaration of Independence.

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3. Describe the core aspects of the American Dream, according to James Truslow Adams.

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4. Many White families in the American South owed their wealth to \_\_\_\_\_ and sugar plantations established through the exploitation of \_\_\_\_\_ workers as \_\_\_\_\_ labor.

5. In the early decades of the 20th century, New Orleans was racially, linguistically, and culturally homogeneous.

True                  False

6. By the mid-20th century, the neighborhood in which Elysian Fields Avenue was located was:

- a) wealthy.
- b) predominantly white.
- c) a hub of poverty and crime.
- d) outside New Orleans.

7. Immigrants to the U.S. in the 20th century tended to work in manual labor, because their employment opportunities were limited.

True                      False

8. In 1947, what percentage of people over age twenty-five had never completed high school?

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9. Describe how people suffering from mental illness were treated in the U.S. in the 1940s.

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10. Name two factors that contributed to Tennessee Williams's feelings of being a social outcast.

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