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Home Instruction Packet for English 2 Academic

Mrs. Kowalski

<p>In this packet are materials and directions.....</p> <p>This work will be collected as it is completed online or at the conclusion of the quarantine period when you return to school (for the paper copy). This work will be graded and counted towards your marking period grade. If you complete the assignments online, you are not required to submit your work as a hard copy. If you did not have internet access, you should have a PDF or hardcopy where you typed or wrote your answers. Print and submit your work upon the first day back to school.</p>	
<p>I am available to support you during the hours 7:50am-2:50 pm to answer any of your questions. I will be responding to your emails within the hour. You contact me at: Kkowalski@rpsd.org. These assignments are also attached in GENESIS to the assignment labeled "LEARNING FROM HOME_additional assignment."</p>	
<p>Lesson: Title, Objective, Action and Assessment.</p>	<p>Assignment directions and due dates.</p>
<p><u>Week 4</u> <u>Three-day lesson:</u> Students will be able to understand the importance of the life of Tennessee Williams by viewing the video "Tennessee Williams: A Wounded Genius" and answering the guided questions provided on the next page. Students will also compose an open-ended response reacting to the extreme lifestyle of this famous American playwright. The answers to the questions may be handwritten or typed and will be collected upon your return to school.</p> <p><u>The videos can be viewed here:</u> YOUTUBE: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5MqPwx8SutE School Tube: https://www.schooltube.com/media/t/1_r356ecir</p> <p><u>NOTE:</u> If you view this on School Tube, please note that there are five videos (parts 1-5) that cover this entire biography. You would need to view all five parts.</p>	<p>View the video (or read the article if no internet access) and answer the questions. Also, compose an open-ended response reacting to the author's life. Aim to complete this by the end of the LAST day of quarantine.</p>
<p><u>Directions for ALL Paper Assignments:</u> Read the article provided about Tennessee Williams. Answer the questions about his life and compose an open-ended response reacting to his life (including his mysterious death). If need be, obtain one by contacting the main office.</p>	

Tennessee Williams: A Wounded Genius

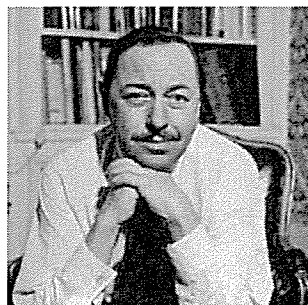
Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: As you watch the biography, answer the questions below.

1. What credit is Tennessee Williams given concerning American Theater?
2. His father was _____ and his mother was _____.
3. Tennessee's full name is _____ and he was born in _____.
4. Describe his parents' marriage.
5. Describe his relationship with _____ his sister.
6. What caused him to read a lot for a period of two years during his childhood?
7. In 1918, his family moved to _____ because his dad got a job at _____.
8. When his father was cruel, Tennessee turned to _____.
9. Bullies at school and his own father bullied Tennessee because they said he was _____.
10. What did he often do with his sister, Rose?

11. What happened to Rose in her late teens? How did it affect Tennessee?
12. Name the three colleges he attended. Which did he graduate from?
13. What city did he move to after college?
14. Where did his agent encourage him to move?
15. What play is based on his mother and sister?
16. What happened to Rose?
17. What does Williams say the theme of *A Streetcar Named Desire* is?
18. What successes/failures came AFTER *A Streetcar Named Desire*?
19. Who did Tennessee fall in love with? What mistakes did Williams make in this relationship? What was the result?
20. What did Williams' turn to when he was upset? What was he diagnosed with?
21. What challenges did he face in his career during the final years of his life?
22. Describe Williams' death.

BIOGRAPHY™



NAME

Tennessee
Williams

BIRTH DATE

March 26, 1911

DEATH DATE

February 25,
1983

EDUCATION

University of
Iowa, University
City High School,
Soldan High
School, University
of Missouri

PLACE OF BIRTH

Columbus,
Mississippi

PLACE OF DEATH

New York, New
York

ORIGINALLY

Thomas Lanier
Williams III

FULL NAME

Tennessee
Williams

Tennessee Williams Biography

(1911–1983)

UPDATED: NOV 26, 2019 · ORIGINAL: APR 2, 2014

Tennessee Williams was a Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright whose works include 'A Streetcar Named Desire' and 'Cat on a Hot Tin Roof.'

Who Was Tennessee Williams?

After college, Tennessee Williams moved to New Orleans, a city that would inspire much of his writing. On March 31, 1945, his play, *The Glass Menagerie*, opened on Broadway and two years later *A Streetcar Named Desire* earned Williams his first Pulitzer Prize. Many of Williams' plays have been adapted to film starring screen greats like Marlon Brando and Elizabeth Taylor.

Early Years

Williams was born Thomas Lanier Williams on March 26, 1911, in Columbus, Mississippi, the second of Cornelius and Edwina Williams' three children. Raised predominantly by his mother, Williams had a complicated relationship with his father, a demanding salesman who preferred work instead of parenting.

Williams described his childhood in Mississippi as pleasant and happy. But life changed for him when his family moved to St. Louis, Missouri. The carefree nature of his boyhood was stripped in his new urban home, and as a result, Williams turned inward and started to write.

His parent's marriage certainly didn't help. Often strained, the Williams home could be a tense place to live. "It was just a wrong marriage," Williams later wrote. The family situation, however, did offer fuel for the playwright's art. His mother became the model for the foolish but strong Amanda Wingfield in *The Glass Menagerie*, while his father represented the aggressive, driving Big Daddy in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*.

In 1929, Williams enrolled at the University of Missouri to study journalism. But he was soon withdrawn from the school by his father, who became incensed when he learned that his son's girlfriend was also attending the university.

Deeply despondent, Williams retreated home, and at his father's urging took a job as a sales clerk with a shoe company. The future playwright hated the position, and again he turned to his writing, crafting poems and stories after work. Eventually, however, the depression took its toll and Williams suffered a nervous breakdown.

After recuperating in Memphis, Williams returned to St. Louis and where he connected with several poets studying at Washington University. In 1937, returned to college, enrolling at the University of Iowa. He graduated the following year.

Commercial Success

When he was 28, Williams moved to New Orleans, where he changed his name (he landed on Tennessee because his father hailed from there) and revamped his lifestyle, soaking up the city life that would inspire his work, most notably the later play, *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

He proved to be a prolific writer and one of his plays earned him \$100 from the Group Theater writing contest. More importantly, it landed him an agent, Audrey Wood, who would become his friend and adviser.

In 1940 Williams' play, *Battle of Angels*, debuted in Boston. It quickly flopped, but the hardworking Williams revised it and brought it back as *Orpheus Descending*, which later was made into the movie, *The Fugitive Kind*, starring Marlon Brando and Anna Magnani.

Other work followed, including a gig writing scripts for MGM. But Williams' mind was never far from the stage. On March 31, 1945, a play he'd been working for some years, *The Glass Menagerie*, opened on Broadway.

Critics and audiences alike lauded the play, about a declassd Southern family living in a tenement, forever changing Williams' life and fortunes. Two years later, *A Streetcar Named Desire* opened, surpassing his previous success and cementing his status as one of the country's best playwrights. The play also earned Williams a Drama Critics' Award and his first Pulitzer Prize.

His subsequent work brought more praise. The hits from this period included *Camino Real*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and *Sweet Bird of Youth*.

Later Years

The 1960s were a difficult time for Williams. His work received poor reviews and increasingly the playwright turned to alcohol and drugs as coping mechanisms. In 1969 his brother hospitalized him.

Upon his release, Williams got right back to work. He churned out several new plays as well as *Memoirs* in 1975, which told the story of his life and his afflictions.

But he never fully escaped his demons. Surrounded by bottles of wine and pills, Williams died in a New York City hotel room on February 25, 1983.

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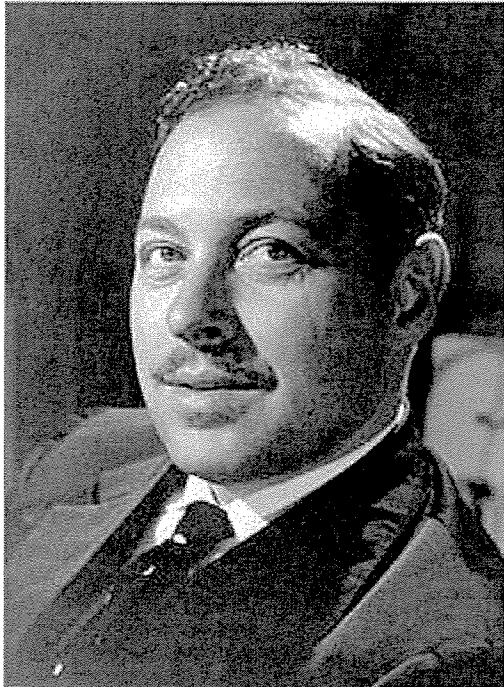
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Tennessee Williams

Tennessee Williams, original name **Thomas Lanier Williams**, (born March 26, 1911, Columbus, Miss., U.S.—died Feb. 25, 1983, New York City), American dramatist whose plays reveal a world of human frustration in which sex and violence underlie an atmosphere of romantic gentility.



Tennessee Williams.
Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.

Williams became interested in playwriting while at the University of Missouri (Columbia) and Washington University (St. Louis) and worked at it even during the Depression while employed in a St. Louis shoe factory. Little theatre groups produced some of his work, encouraging him to study dramatic writing at the University of Iowa, where he earned a B.A. in 1938.

His first recognition came when *American Blues* (1939), a group of one-act plays, won a Group Theatre award. Williams, however, continued to work at jobs ranging from theatre usher to Hollywood scriptwriter until success came with *The Glass Menagerie* (1944). In it, Williams portrayed a declassed Southern family living in a tenement. The play is about the failure of a domineering mother, Amanda, living upon her delusions of a romantic past, and her cynical son, Tom, to secure a

suitor for Tom's crippled and painfully shy sister, Laura, who lives in a fantasy world with a collection of glass animals.

Williams' next major play, *A Streetcar Named Desire* (1947), won a Pulitzer Prize. It is a study of the mental and moral ruin of Blanche Du Bois, another former Southern belle, whose genteel pretensions are no match for the harsh realities symbolized by her brutish brother-in-law, Stanley Kowalski.

In 1953, *Camino Real*, a complex work set in a mythical, microcosmic town whose inhabitants include Lord Byron and Don Quixote, was a commercial failure, but his *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (1955), which exposes the emotional lies governing relationships in the family of a wealthy Southern planter, was awarded a Pulitzer Prize and was successfully filmed, as was *The Night of the Iguana* (1961), the story of a defrocked minister turned sleazy tour guide, who finds God in a cheap Mexican hotel. *Suddenly Last Summer* (1958) deals with lobotomy, pederasty,

and cannibalism, and in *Sweet Bird of Youth* (1959), the gigolo hero is castrated for having infected a Southern politician's daughter with venereal disease.

Williams was in ill health frequently during the 1960s, compounded by years of addiction to sleeping pills and liquor, problems that he struggled to overcome after a severe mental and physical breakdown in 1969. His later plays were unsuccessful, closing soon to poor reviews. They include *Vieux Carré* (1977), about down-and-outs in New Orleans; *A Lovely Sunday for Crève Coeur* (1978–79), about a fading belle in St. Louis during the Great Depression; and *Clothes for a Summer Hotel* (1980), centring on Zelda Fitzgerald, wife of novelist F. Scott Fitzgerald, and on the people they knew.



Andy Warhol (second from left) and Tennessee Williams (far right), 1967.

James Kavallines—*World Journal Tribune/Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.*
(LC-USZ62-121294)

Williams also wrote two novels, *The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone* (1950) and *Moise and the World of Reason* (1975), essays, poetry, film scripts, short stories, and an autobiography, *Memoirs* (1975). His works won four Drama Critics' awards and were widely translated and performed around the world.

This article was most recently revised and updated by Kathleen Kuiper, Senior Editor.

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