UNVEILING THE COMPLEX CHARACTERS IN *THE GLASS MENAGERIE*: A PSYCHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF INTRIGUING PERSONALITIES

1*Zulkarnain, 2Redite Kurniawan, 3Bidarita Widiati, 1Fachrurrozi,
1Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu Syariah Darul Falah Pagutan Mataram NTB, Indonesia
2English Teachers, MTs. Terpadu Ar-Roihan Lawang, Indonesia
3English Lecturer, Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu Tekhnik Lingkungan Mataram, Indonesia

*Corresponding Author Email: karnaenzul1990@gmail.com

Article Info	Abstract
	Literature serves as a reflective medium that captures and articulates the intricacies of social reality, providing a profound portrayal of real-life phenomena. It functions as a vital record, encapsulating the observations and perceptions of individuals in their lived experiences. In essence, literature is an eloquent description of life itself. This study specifically delves into the exploration of personalities within the context of the play "The Glass Menagerie" by Tennessee Williams, elucidating the significance of the characters' actions. To achieve a nuanced understanding, this research adopts personality theories to delineate the distinctive traits of the main characters and draws upon psychological and motivational theories to discern the underlying meanings of their actions. Employing a qualitative descriptive method with content analysis, the study aims to fulfill its research objectives, namely, providing detailed characterizations of Amanda, Tom, and Laura Wingfield, and unraveling the meanings and implied messages conveyed through their actions. The analytical process involves the systematic collection, scrutiny, and interpretation of data, culminating in well-grounded conclusions. The findings of this research shed light on various personalities, actions, and the implicit messages embedded in the conduct of the main characters, namely Laura, Tom, and Amanda Wingfield. Notably, the study identifies Laura as a character predominantly influenced by her Id, while Tom and Amanda are portrayed as personalities shaped by their Egos. The outcomes of this investigation contribute valuable insights that can inform the implementation of drama-based learning. By engaging with and appreciating literary works, students stand to enhance not only their language proficiency but also cultivate a sense of comfort and familiarity with the nuanced complexities of human behavior and interpersonal dynamics.

INTRODUCTION

Understanding the psychological makeup of characters in literature is crucial for both literary analysis and educational purposes (Smith et al., 2021). By gaining insights into the personalities and motivations of these characters, we can enrich our appreciation of the play and the broader field of drama (Isro'iyah & Herminingsih, 2023; Jeffrey & Jeffrey, 2022). Furthermore, such insights can enhance the implementation of drama learning, as they provide students with a deeper understanding of the characters and their actions, thus fostering language proficiency and emotional engagement.

Literary works encompass a diverse range of creative expressions, including prose, poetry, and drama, each offering a unique lens through which to view the human experience (Chamcharatsri & Iida, 2022; Haden, 2023). Drama is a form of storytelling where actors bring

characters to life, mirroring the intricacies of human existence (Baía Reis & Ashmore, 2022; Rembowska-P\luciennik, 2022). It is within this art form that the plot's progression connects readers and audiences to their own humanity, creating a bridge to real-life experiences. The study of literature extends beyond the realm of creative expression, possessing scientific characteristics like objects, theories, and methodologies (Eaglestone, 2020). Consequently, literature can act as both a subject and an object of research.

The choice to study drama as the central subject of this research is rooted in the belief that it offers a profound avenue for broadening cultural awareness. Drama serves as a conduit for traversing rich traditions and diverse cultures, fostering appreciation for what is culturally and historically significant (Loane & Jyldyz, 2023). Through drama, individuals can cultivate empathy and identification, unlocking new dimensions of emotional experiences (Dickinson & Hadjimichael, 2023; Gatt, 2020). Observing the creative processes and products of others allows for a deeper connection with emotions and a broader understanding of varied interpretations and perspectives, ultimately enhancing creative, imaginative, and divergent thinking.

Moreover, drama encourages critical engagement, transforming passive viewers into discerning consumers (Gregorzewski, 2021; O'Sullivan & Franz, 2023; Walmsley, 2019). The dramatic medium provides a dynamic platform to contemplate and challenge conventional thinking, promoting a more holistic understanding of the world. The specific drama under investigation in this study is "The Glass Menagerie," penned by the esteemed American playwright, Tennessee Williams (Tabatabaei & Sarab, 2020). Williams' repertoire includes other successful works like "The Rose Tattoo," "A Streetcar Named Desire," "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," and "Summer and Smoke." Following its premiere in Chicago in 1944, "The Glass Menagerie" received the New York Drama Critics Circle Award in 1945, solidifying Williams' status as a highly regarded playwright in American theater (Correro, 2021). The play's enduring success and its unforeseeable denouement serve as the impetus for this study.

Through "The Glass Menagerie," Tennessee Williams seeks to convey profound moral values of human life. The narrative invites readers and audiences not only to savor its enthralling scenes but also to uncover the valuable life lessons embedded within, particularly the importance of genuinely understanding others by delving into their motivations, beyond surface-level perceptions. The study is motivated by the desire to explore and unearth these profound messages that advocate understanding, empathy, and a deeper comprehension of human behavior.

This study embarks on an analysis of the three main characters in "The Glass Menagerie," namely Amanda, Tom Wingfield, and Laura Wingfield, from a psychological perspective. The internal struggles and motivations of these characters serve as a captivating focal point. By deciphering the underlying motives and the implied messages behind their actions, we aim to refrain from judgment solely based on their outward actions.

The concept of character in literature is multifaceted. A character is an actor portrayed in a work, their moral qualities and inclinations revealed through speech and actions. Characters are integral to the narratives they inhabit, whether in short stories, novels, dramas, or films.

Two key character theories guide this study's analysis. The first theory, proposed by Guth (1997), classifies characters into two distinct categories: flat characters with one-track personalities and round characters with complex, blended traits (Guth & Rico, 1997). The second theory, advanced by Miligan (1983), distinguishes between major characters, who frequently appear in the narrative, and secondary characters, who play more peripheral roles (Milligan, 1983b). These character theories will be applied in the analysis to provide a comprehensive understanding of the characters in "The Glass Menagerie."

This research seeks to explore the intricate characters of "The Glass Menagerie," using a psychological lens to delve into the depths of Amanda, Tom, and Laura Wingfield. The study

not only enriches our appreciation of Tennessee Williams' work but also contributes valuable insights to the field of literary analysis. Furthermore, it holds the potential to enhance drama-based learning, fostering improved language proficiency and emotional engagement among students.

The play "The Glass Menagerie" by Tennessee Williams is a timeless literary work that delves into the intricate lives of the Wingfield family. This study seeks to explore the personalities of the main characters in the play, namely Amanda, Tom, and Laura Wingfield, while also shedding light on the underlying motivations driving their actions. To accomplish this, we draw upon Guth's (1997) and Milligan's (1983) personality theories to describe the characters' personalities and Freud's (1970) and Bandura's (1977) theories of psychology and motivation to decipher the meaning behind their actions. Freud's psychoanalytic theory (1970) is a foundational psychological framework that delves into the unconscious mind and the interplay of the id, ego, and superego. It posits that human behavior is shaped by hidden desires, unresolved childhood conflicts, and defense mechanisms that protect the conscious mind from anxiety (Zhang, 2020).

Bandura social cognitive-motivational theory, rooted in cognitive psychology, centers on cognitive appraisal and its influence on emotion and motivation. This theory highlights how individuals assess situations, interpret them in terms of significance and threat, and employ coping strategies to manage emotional responses and pursue personal goals, particularly in the context of stress and adversity (Schunk & DiBenedetto, 2020). While "The Glass Menagerie" has been a subject of extensive analysis, there is still a gap in understanding the underlying psychological aspects of the main characters, Amanda, Tom, and Laura. This study aims to bridge this gap by applying established personality theories and psychological frameworks to unveil the motivations behind their actions. This study raised the questions: 1). What are the personality traits of Amanda, Tom, and Laura Wingfield, as described by Guth's and Milligan's personality theories? 2). How can Freud's and Bandura's psychological and motivational theories help to uncover the meaning and implications of the characters' actions in "The Glass Menagerie"?

RESEARCH METHOD
Research Design
This study adopts a descriptive qualitative research approach, utilizing content analysis to achieve the research objective. The primary goal of this research is to describe the characteristics of Amanda, Tom, and Laura Wingfield and to discern the meaning behind their actions. This process involves collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from the data, following the guidelines set forth (Cresswell, 2012).

Data Sources
Data collection is a critical initial step in the research process. In this study, the data primarily consist of the text from Tennessee Williams' play "The Glass Menagerie." The relevant text passages featuring the main characters, Amanda, Tom, and Laura, are carefully selected and extracted for analysis. The selected text passages are organized systematically to ensure clarity and accessibility during the subsequent analysis. Each passage is meticulously cataloged, allowing for easy reference and cross-referencing when needed. Content analysis is the central method used in this study. It involves a systematic examination of the selected text passages. The analysis is guided by a psychological approach, with a focus on the personalities and behaviors of the main characters. The application of relevant psychological theories, such as those mentioned in the introduction (Guth, Milligan, Freud, Bandura), serves as the framework for the analysis.
Data Analysis

The analysis aims to identify the key personality traits of Amanda, Tom, and Laura Wingfield. This process requires a careful review of the characters' actions, dialogues, and inner thoughts as portrayed in the text. The identified personality traits are then classified, drawing from the psychological theories, as flat or round characters (Guth, 1997), or major and secondary characters (Milligan, 1983). An integral aspect of the analysis is to understand the motivations behind the characters' actions. The chosen psychological approach facilitates a deep exploration of the psychological aspects of the characters. By discerning their underlying motivations, the study gains a more profound comprehension of characters behave as they do within the dramatic context. The final step in the method involves drawing conclusions based on the analysis. The research aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the characters' personalities, behaviors, and motivations. These conclusions are derived from the content analysis and are framed within the context of the psychological theories employed.

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION
Research Findings
The data are displayed in the form of data analysis table which consists of three. The first table has shown the personalities of the main characters and the second section is about analysis of the meaning behind the main characters' action in the story and the final section is about analysis of implied messages in the actions.

Table 1
Categorization of Personalities

Main Characters	Categorization of Personalities	
Laura Wingfield	a.	A major character She appears more often in narrative
	b.	A round character She has blended traits that cause her become complicated.
Tom Wingfield	a.	A major character He appears more often in narrative
	b.	A flat character He has one-track personality
Amanda Wingfield	a.	A major character She appears more often in narrative
	b.	A flat character She has one-track personality

Table 1 effectively categorizes the central characters, Laura, Tom, and Amanda Wingfield, in Tennessee Williams' "The Glass Menagerie" based on their significance within the narrative and the complexity of their personalities. This categorization offers a valuable framework for understanding their roles and character development throughout the play. Laura Wingfield is classified as a major character, signifying her essential presence in the story's progression. As a round character, Laura possesses a multi-faceted personality characterized by blended traits, rendering her character complex and layered. This complexity in her character is what makes her an intriguing and relatable figure within the narrative. Her multidimensional nature allows the audience to connect with her on various levels, as they witness her struggle with both internal and external challenges. Laura's round character classification underscores her importance in conveying the depth and richness of the human experience.

In contrast, Tom Wingfield, also a major character, stands out as a flat character within the story. His character is characterized by a one-track personality, which, while less complex than a round character, serves a crucial purpose in the narrative. Tom's straightforward personality offers a clear lens through which the audience can view the unfolding events. His

character is an essential vehicle for driving the plot forward, and his one-track nature provides a distinct contrast to the more intricate characters, such as Laura and Amanda. Tom's flat character classification highlights the role he plays in advancing the storyline and adds depth to the narrative structure.

Amanda Wingfield, another major character in the play, is also classified as a flat character, denoting her consistent presence throughout the narrative. Her character is portrayed as having a one-track personality, which is less complex than that of a round character. Amanda's character, while less multifaceted, serves as a vital element in the story. Her one-track nature brings a specific perspective and dynamic to the family's interactions and the overall narrative. Amanda's character classification emphasizes her role in the family's dynamics and the tension that arises from her fixed personality traits.

In summary, the categorization of Laura, Tom, and Amanda as major characters with distinct character types enhances the audience's understanding of their significance and the varying depths of their personalities within "The Glass Menagerie." This framework highlights the narrative's complexity and the unique roles each character plays in conveying the nuances of human experience, as well as their contributions to the play's overarching themes and messages.

Table 2
The Meaning of Actions Conducted by Main Characters (Laura, Tom And Amanda)

The Main Characters		Action	Evidence
Laura Wingfield	a.	Collecting The Glass Menagerie and Playing Old Phonograph Record Frequently	(Scene 7, Page 52)
	b.	Pretending to Go to The Course	(Scene 4, Page 19)
Tom Wingfield	a.	Going to The Movie Every Night	*(Scene 3, page 13)*
	b.	Leaving his Family	
Amanda Wingfield	a.	Looking for Gentlemen Caller for Laura	*(Scene 4, page 21-22)*
	b.	Let Tom Leaving her Life	*(Scene 7, page 63)*

This table provides a comprehensive analysis of the actions conducted by the main characters, Laura, Tom, and Amanda Wingfield, in Tennessee Williams' "The Glass Menagerie." Each character's actions are examined to uncover their underlying meanings and motivations. Laura Wingfield's actions are characterized by her frequent interaction with "The Glass Menagerie," a collection of delicate glass figurines, and her habit of playing an old phonograph record. These actions signify her attachment to the glass animals and her connection to memories of her past. Her pretending to go to a course, when she is actually in the confines of her home, suggests a sense of isolation and withdrawal from the outside world, highlighting her shyness and social anxiety. Laura's actions reflect her desire to find comfort and solace in the familiar, as well as her avoidance of the challenges of the external world.

Tom Wingfield's actions consist of going to the movies every night and, eventually, leaving his family. His nightly trips to the cinema indicate a longing for escapism and a break from the responsibilities and tensions at home. Tom's decision to leave his family reflects his desire for personal freedom and autonomy, as well as his frustration with the familial obligations that constrain him. These actions serve as a turning point in the narrative, as they set the stage for the family's further disintegration.

Amanda Wingfield's actions involve her active search for a gentlemen caller for her daughter, Laura, and her decision to let Tom leave their lives. Amanda's pursuit of a suitor for Laura highlights her concern for her daughter's future and her determination to secure a stable future for her. Simultaneously, her willingness to let Tom depart demonstrates her recognition of the limitations and conflicts within the family, and her acknowledgment of Tom's need to find his own path. Amanda's actions are driven by a mix of maternal care and pragmatism.

In essence, this table dissects the actions of the main characters and provides insights into the characters' motivations and the broader themes of the play, such as escape, familial dynamics, and the pursuit of dreams. It illustrates the depth of character analysis and the rich storytelling found within "The Glass Menagerie."

Table 3
Summarizing the implied messages in the actions of the main characters

Character	Key Actions	Implied Messages
Laura Wingfield	Collecting The Glass Menagerie and Playing Old Phonograph Record Frequently	Seeking refuge in a challenging world, Quest for purpose and happiness amidst uncertainty and psychological struggle within
	Pretending to Go to The Course	Necessity of loving and caring for family and Sacrifice to avoid causing pain to others.
Tom Wingfield	Going to The Movie Every Night	Discontentment and feeling trapped and Conflict between dreams and reality, Freedom vs. obligation
	Leaving his Family	Protection of identity and creativity and Sacrifice to preserve personal integrity
Amanda Wingfield	Looking for Gentlemen Caller for Laura	Difficulty accepting reality and Love for her child and desire for her happiness.
	Let Tom Leaving her Life	Dilemma between loving her child and allowing him to pursue his dreams and freedom and A mother's sacrifice.

Laura's consistent engagement with her Glass Menagerie and the old phonograph record reflects her need for refuge in a challenging and uncertain world. Her attachment to these objects symbolizes her quest for purpose and happiness amid the psychological struggles she faces. The Glass Menagerie and the phonograph record serve as symbols of comfort and stability in a world filled with uncertainty. Additionally, her pretense of attending a course is a sacrifice made of love and a necessity to prevent causing pain to her family. It underscores the importance of family bonds and selflessness.

Tom's nightly escape to the movies signifies his discontentment and feeling of entrapment within the family and his responsibilities. The conflict between his dreams and the harsh reality he faces is apparent, and his frequent movie-going is an attempt to seek solace and freedom. His decision to leave his family is driven by a need to protect his identity and creativity, even if it means making significant sacrifices. It highlights the theme of personal integrity and the struggles one faces when pursuing individual aspirations. Amanda's tireless pursuit of a gentlemen caller for Laura reveals her difficulty in accepting the reality of their situation. Her actions stem from her deep love for her child and her fervent desire for Laura's happiness and security. At the same time, her willingness to let Tom go symbolizes a mother's

dilemma between loving her child and allowing him to pursue his dreams and freedom. It embodies the essence of maternal sacrifice and the complexity of maternal love.

In summary, Table 3 summarizes the implied messages within the actions of the main characters in "The Glass Menagerie." It emphasizes the themes of refuge, sacrifice, and family bonds, along with the conflicts between personal dreams and familial obligations. The characters' actions speak to the complexities of human relationships and the multifaceted nature of love, self-identity, and the pursuit of happiness. These implied messages enrich the depth and poignancy of Tennessee Williams' play, making it a compelling exploration of the human experience.

Discussion

The categorization of personality of the main characters used in this study according to the theory of (Guth & Rico, 1997) and (Milligan, 1983a) who says that there are some categories of personality i.e. flat character, round character, major character and secondary character. Those of personality of the main character categorization are discussed as follow:

Laura Wingfield

Laura Wingfield, one of the central characters in Tennessee Williams' "The Glass Menagerie," presents a complex and psychologically rich character for analysis. Her physical and emotional challenges, as well as her impact on her family, particularly her brother Tom and her mother Amanda, provide a compelling context for a psychological examination. Laura's character embodies social anxiety and isolation. Her physical defect, a limp, has a profound impact on her self-esteem and social interactions. Her emotional and physical challenges result in her living in her own world, largely isolated from the external world. This isolation can be analyzed through the lens of social psychology, where social interactions and self-concept are fundamental (Arch et al., 2023). Laura's self-concept is deeply affected by her physical defect and her perception of how others view her.

Laura's character exhibits a strong sense of dependence and obedience, particularly towards her mother, Amanda. She complies with Amanda's wishes to avoid causing her mother sadness or anger, showcasing the psychological impact of their relationship. This dependency can be examined using attachment theory, which delves into the emotional bonds between individuals (Reed, 2022). Laura's attachment to Amanda can be seen as both a source of comfort and a constraint on her autonomy. Laura employs coping mechanisms, including avoidance and escapism, to deal with the challenges she faces. Her frequent visits to the zoo or museum instead of attending a business course illustrate her avoidance of facing her fears and responsibilities. These actions can be analyzed from a coping mechanisms perspective in psychology, where individuals use various strategies to manage stress and anxiety (Das et al., 2020).

Laura's character exhibits a significant contrast in her behavior. She is typically portrayed as shy and silent, reflecting her social anxiety and introverted nature. However, her outburst of tears when her glass collection is accidentally broken by Tom demonstrates a more emotionally expressive side. This contrast in behavior could be explored through the study of personality psychology, where individuals' consistent traits are juxtaposed with situational influences on behavior (Bedford-Petersen & Saucier, 2021). Laura's character can be described as a round character, as she possesses blended traits that make her character complex and multifaceted. Her obedience to her mother and her desire to avoid confrontation coexist with her attempts to subvert her mother's wishes, choosing her own path through escapism. This duality within her character adds depth and complexity, making her a compelling figure for psychological analysis. Laura's personality often hinges on whether one values her as a symbol of emotional depth and fragility or perceives her as a passive character whose actions, or lack thereof, affect the family's dynamics.

Laura Wingfield's actions in "The Glass Menagerie" shed light on her deep psychological and emotional struggles. Her daily routine revolves around tending to her cherished collection of glass animals and playing her father's old phonograph records. These actions serve as a means of coping with her profound social discomfort and the psychological turmoil that plagues her. Laura's physical ailment, symbolized by her limp, has left her feeling inadequate and profoundly self-conscious. She believes her limp produces a sound like thunder, which erodes her self-confidence. Despite her introverted nature, Laura secretly yearns for social interaction, friendships, and connections with others. However, her extreme shyness and fear of rejection have caused her to retreat from genuine social interactions. To protect herself, she represses her desires and redirects her need for companionship into her hobbies, particularly her glass menagerie. This repression serves as a defense mechanism, keeping her unacceptable thoughts and desires hidden from her consciousness. Instead of actively seeking close relationships, Laura chooses isolation and privacy, creating her own safe world with her glass animals.

Laura's actions reflect her complex emotional and psychological struggles, which include a longing for connection, a fear of rejection, and her unique coping mechanisms to find purpose and security in her life. Her compassionate and sensitive nature is also evident in her willingness to obey her mother's orders, even if it means participating in a business course that exacerbates her anxiety. Her actions are rooted in a deep desire to avoid causing harm to others, particularly her family members, and to offer love and support. However, her low self-esteem and social anxiety eventually lead her to withdraw from the course to alleviate the pressure and protect herself from further embarrassment (Mitchell, 2022).

Laura's character is defined by her coping mechanisms, her desire for connection, and her intense need to avoid causing pain to others, even if it comes at the cost of her own comfort and well-being. In essence, Laura's psychology and personality in "The Glass Menagerie" offer readers a window into the complexities of human nature, emotions, and relationships. Readers can take away a low self-esteem and social anxiety eventually lead her to withdraw from the course to alleviate the pressure and protect herself from further embarrassment (Bae et al., 2022). Laura's character serves as a poignant reminder of the rich tapestry of human experiences and the profound impact of empathy and support on those facing challenges.

Tom Wingfield

Tom has double role in drama The Glass Menagerie. Tom's dual role as both a narrator who recounts the events of the play and a participant in those recollections adds a layer of complexity to his character. As the narrator, he offers the audience a more detached perspective, providing insights into the play's themes and the tension between objective truth and the distortion of memory. This narrative role invites the audience to question the reliability of memory and perception (Sedgman, 2019), a significant theme in the play.

Tom's direct addresses to the audience provide a unique connection between the play's events and the audience's interpretation. He serves as a guide, offering his assessment of what transpires on stage, but his emotions sometimes cloud his judgment. This duality adds to the audience's experience of the play, as they must grapple with whether to trust his assessments or consider the emotional biases that may influence his perspective. Tom's prominence in the play, both as a narrator and an active participant, solidifies his status as a major character. His frequent appearances on stage and his pivotal role in the family's dynamics underscore his significance to the narrative.

Tom Wingfield, a character in Tennessee Williams' "The Glass Menagerie," grapples with a profound internal conflict between his creative aspirations and the materialistic world he inhabits. Reluctantly employed at a shoe warehouse, he represents the mundane and feels trapped between his dreams and his family's illusions. He acknowledges the illusions his

mother, Amanda, and his sister, Laura, live under. This internal struggle compels him to make a difficult choice: whether to abandon his family and pursue his own dreams or remain in their world of delusion and seclusion. Tom's efforts to escape the demands of his mother and find solace in movies and alcohol ultimately serve as temporary distractions from his unfulfilling life.

Furthermore, Tom's yearning for escape from Amanda's constant interference, which extends to even the most basic aspects of his life, becomes evident. Her confiscation of his books symbolizes her oppressive control, making his existence unbearable. Amanda's inability to comprehend his creative aspirations leads Tom to believe that his desires will go unappreciated, fueling his frustration. He endeavors to assert his individuality and primal instincts, but Amanda rejects these attempts, creating a deeper divide within the family. Tom's decision to leave home is not a selfish act but one of self-preservation. He recognizes that staying would stifle his creativity and sensitivity. His departure is driven by a compelling need to protect his artistic abilities and sense of self, with his sister's delicate charm and beauty lingering in his heart as he departs.

Tom's flat character classification is based on his one-track personality, which centers on his desire to escape from the constraints of his life with Amanda and Laura. This singular focus on liberation is a driving force behind the play's events (Wu, 2019), creating tension and conflict within the family.

Tom Wingfield's character is a blend of detachment and emotional involvement, narration and participation, and a one-track focus on his own desires. His complexity adds depth to the play's exploration of memory, familial dynamics, and the pursuit of personal freedom. Tom's character raises questions about the reliability of memory, the impact of personal biases on narrative, and the struggles of those seeking to break free from their circumstances (Livingston, 2021).

Amanda Wingfield

Amanda Wingfield in "The Glass Menagerie" navigates between the realms of illusion and reality, often choosing to ignore the harsh realities of life when it suits her convenience. To endure her modest life in a tenement, she resorts to various forms of escapism, often reminiscing about her youthful days at Blue Mountain, where she was a sought-after young woman with many gentlemen callers. Amanda uses playful distractions to escape the monotony of daily life, treating Laura's physical disability as a minor imperfection rather than acknowledging the truth. Despite her illusions, Amanda genuinely cares about Laura's happiness and makes efforts to find her a suitable gentleman caller with Tom's assistance. However, as the harsh realities of life, particularly concerning Laura's future and Tom's imminent departure, catch up with her, Amanda takes action by arranging for a gentleman caller to visit.

Amanda's character embodies a series of paradoxes. While she sincerely wants the best for her children, she fails to comprehend that their aspirations differ significantly from her own. Her dedication to their happiness, driven by a desire to shield them from repeating her mistakes, paradoxically leads to her being overbearing and nagging. Amanda's inability to recognize the distinctiveness of her children's personalities results in frequent misunderstandings, particularly with Laura, whose quiet and sensitive nature contrasts with Amanda's vivaciousness. Despite these flaws, Amanda possesses strong determination and resilience, enabling her to prepare diligently when she anticipates a gentleman caller's arrival. Her seemingly cheerful and lighthearted demeanor serves as a coping mechanism for a life that slipped away after her husband's abandonment, compelling her to construct meaning and live vicariously through her children. Ultimately, Amanda shifts between the worlds of illusion and reality as a defense against the emptiness and monotony of her existence.

Amanda is portrayed as a character who clings to a romanticized vision of her youth as a Southern belle. She lives not in the past itself, but in her idealized version of it. Her fixation on her past glory reflects a refusal to accept her present circumstances of poverty and abandonment. This aspect of character adds layers of depth to the play's exploration of memory and illusion (Karamat & Khalis, 2023). manda demonstrates pragmatism in her efforts to make ends meet by selling magazine subscriptions. However, her pragmatic actions often clash with her delusional beliefs about how the world should work. She creates a dissonance between her practical efforts and her unrealistic expectations, which is a source of tension within the play.

Amanda projects her own ideals of femininity onto her daughter, Laura, rather than accepting Laura for who she is. She imposes her expectations on Laura, a reflection of her desire to mold her children's lives according to her vision. This parental dynamic contributes to the family's conflicts and challenges. Amanda is both a comic and tragic figure, characterized by her exaggerated, larger-than-life statements and actions. The comedic moments arise from her out-of-touch actions and self-delusion, which can be humorous to observe (Conners, 2022). However, her inability to see the world around her and her desperate attempts to relive her past are profoundly tragic. The gap between her perception of reality and actuality highlights the play's exploration of the human condition and the impact of illusions on our lives.

Amanda's character is a blend of romanticism, pragmatism, and a complex motherly dynamic with her children. Her character adds depth to the play's themes of memory, illusion, and the tension between reality and one's idealized version of life. Amanda's portrayal as both comic and tragic reflects the complexities of human nature and the consequences of living through the veil of memories and dreams (Castro, 2021).

Incorporating personality psychology theories helps the readers to understand the motivations and behaviors of Amanda's character. Her projection, self-concept, discrepancy between real and ideal selves, and coping mechanisms are integral components of her personality that contribute to the play's exploration of the human psyche and the impact of personal ideals and self-concept on one's actions and relationships (Nowak et al., 2023).

The Implied Messages of Actions Conducted by Main Characters (Laura, Tom and Amanda)

The actions of the main characters in "The Glass Menagerie" by Tennessee Williams carry profound underlying messages that add depth to their characterizations and the overall themes of the play. Laura Wingfield's actions suggest her need for a sanctuary and comfort within a challenging world. Her glass collection becomes a symbol of this refuge, reflecting her desire to create a safe haven amidst the uncertainties of her social life. Her deep psychological struggle to find purpose and happiness within herself is evident, driven by her physical imperfections and fear of rejection. In addition, her pretense of attending a course underscores her motivation to love and care for her family, even at the expense of her own comfort. It highlights her innate kindness and her determination to avoid causing harm to others.

Freud's theory suggests that individuals often engage in behaviors that symbolize their unconscious desires and struggles (Niaz et al., 2019). Laura's collection of glass animals serves as a symbolic refuge from the challenging world she faces. The fragility and delicacy of the glass creatures mirror her own vulnerability and fear of rejection due to her physical imperfection (her limp). In Freudian terms, this collection can be seen as a displacement of her unconscious desires for security and acceptance, channeled into the care and protection of these delicate figurines.

Tom Wingfield's actions depict his sense of discontentment and feeling trapped in the routine of his life. These actions emphasize the conflict between his longing for freedom and the harsh reality he faces in providing for his family. Tom recognizes the illusions of his mother and understands his sister's struggles, which further intensify his internal conflict. His decision to leave his family is driven by the need to protect his threatened identity and creativity, as he

believes that staying would suffocate his dreams and sensitivity. It showcases his struggle to maintain personal integrity and pursue his aspirations.

Bandura's theory emphasizes the role of self-efficacy, which refers to an individual's belief in their ability to achieve specific goals or outcomes (Zivlak & Stojanac, 2019). Tom's sense of discontentment and feeling trapped in the routine of his life reflects a lack of self-efficacy in his current situation. He perceives that his role in providing for his family has limited his personal growth and creativity, contributing to his dissatisfaction.

Amanda Wingfield's actions reflect her tendency to avoid accepting harsh realities and her desire to recreate a world that aligns with her dreams. Amanda often reminisces about her youth, with numerous gentlemen callers, as a form of escapism from her tenement existence. Her efforts to find a suitable gentleman caller for Laura underline her love for her daughter and her genuine wish to see her happy. However, Amanda's decision to let Tom leave her life represents a complex dilemma between her maternal love and her son's need for independence. It illustrates the sacrifices a mother is willing to make for her child's happiness, even if it means letting go. "The Glass Menagerie" by Tennessee Williams conveys several interconnected themes and messages: First, the illusion of escapism. The play explores the theme of escapism through various characters. Amanda escapes into the illusion of her youthful days with numerous gentlemen callers, often romanticizing the past to cope with her current circumstances. Tom seeks escape in nightly visits to the movies, attempting to break free from the mundanity of his life. Laura retreats into her collection of glass animals and her phonograph records as a way to escape the challenges of the outside world. These actions highlight the characters' desperate attempts to evade the harsh realities of their lives.

Second, family bonds and sacrifices. The play delves into the complex dynamics of family relationships. Amanda's love for her children is evident in her actions, including her attempts to secure a gentleman caller for Laura. However, her desire to protect and guide her children often leads to misunderstandings and conflicts, highlighting the sacrifices parents make for their offspring's happiness. Tom's decision to leave the family is both an act of personal preservation and a sacrifice, as he seeks to protect his own aspirations and identity.

Third, the elusiveness of dreams. The characters in the play grapple with unfulfilled dreams and aspirations. Tom desires a life beyond the confines of his family and warehouse job, but he must confront the reality of his responsibilities. Laura's dreams of fitting into society and finding happiness are thwarted by her physical and emotional struggles. These unattained dreams underscore the challenges of achieving personal fulfillment in the face of adversity. Forth, the fragility of identity. Each character in the play struggles with a fragile sense of self. Amanda attempts to mold her children into what she deems socially acceptable, imposing her ideals upon them. Tom feels trapped between his desire for adventure and his duty to his family. Laura's fragile self-esteem and shyness inhibit her from fully engaging with the world. The characters' battles with their identities highlight the complexities of self-discovery and the external pressures that shape one's sense of self.

The power of memory. Memory is a central theme in the play. Tom serves as the narrator, recounting events from his past. The play's structure highlights the fallibility of memory, as Tom's recollections may not accurately reflect the past. The characters also use memory as a means of escape, reminiscing about better times. Memory serves as a double-edged sword, offering comfort and escape while also distorting reality. Overall, "The Glass Menagerie" is a poignant exploration of the human condition, portraying the struggle to reconcile dreams with reality, the complexities of family bonds, and the delicate nature of identity. It emphasizes the inherent desire to escape the difficulties of life and the sacrifices made in pursuit of happiness. The play's messages resonate with audiences as they reflect on their own desires, dreams, and the complexities of family relationships.

CONCLUSION

According to Guth's and Milligan's personality theories, Amanda, Tom, and Laura can be categorized based on their prominence and complexity within the narrative. Amanda and Tom are identified as major characters, appearing more frequently in the story, while Laura is also considered a major character. However, Laura's characterization as a round character, with blended and intricate traits, contrasts with Tom's flat character, which features a one-track personality. Amanda, although a major character, is also classified as a flat character, characterized by her one-track personality. These character categorizations provide valuable insights into the characters' roles and complexities within the play.

The application of Freud's and Bootzin's psychological and motivational theories has enhanced our understanding of the characters' actions. Laura's actions, such as collecting The Glass Menagerie and playing old phonograph records, can be attributed to her deep psychological struggle and desire for a sanctuary in a challenging world. Her actions reflect her longing for connection, fear of rejection, and unique coping mechanisms. Tom's actions, including going to the movies every night and leaving his family, illustrate his conflict between dreams and reality, as well as his struggle to protect his identity and creativity. Amanda's actions, like looking for a gentleman caller for Laura and letting Tom leave her life, highlight her attempts to escape harsh realities and her maternal sacrifices.

In essence, the combination of personality theories and psychological insights has provided a comprehensive understanding of the characters' traits and motivations in "The Glass Menagerie." This analysis enriches appreciation of the play's themes and the complex interplay of personalities, desires, and coping mechanisms within the Wingfield family. The characters come to life as multidimensional figures with relatable struggles, making the play a timeless exploration of human psychology and relationships. For future researchers interested in delving further into the study of "The Glass Menagerie" by Tennessee Williams or similar literary works can explore the effectiveness of using "The Glass Menagerie" as a teaching tool in literature and drama education.

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