English III-HN Summer Reading: *The Glass Menagerie*

- There is to be no student collaboration on the project. The project must be completed by each student individually.
- Be prepared to turn in your project on the first day of class and be prepared to complete a test on the reading.

As a bit of background, Tennessee Williams is one of America's most famous playwrights, and *The Glass Menagerie* is one of his most famous plays. He led a life filled with personal challenges, which are often reflected in his plays. He described *The Glass Menagerie*, set in St. Louis in1937, as a "memory play." It is narrated by one of its main characters, Tom Wingfield.

To learn more about Tennessee Williams' life, you might start here: http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0931783/bio

Assignment:

STEP 1: Read and annotate the play. To annotate thoroughly, you should mark/highlight/circle any words that are unfamiliar, quotes that are interesting, or important stage directions. Also, if you have questions about certain occurrences in the play, please note these in the margins of the book. Sticky notes are also a good annotation tool.

STEP 2: Complete the attached chart. For each of the themes listed, you should cite (quote) at least TWO pieces of supporting evidence from the play.

Central themes to focus on as you read:

- Illusion vs. reality and the difficulty of accepting one's situation (pay close attention to the reality of the family versus the individual illusions to which each member seems to cling)
- The role of familial responsibility and duty in determining one's actions
- Personal dreams and aspirations v. one's duty to family
- Loneliness and ways of escape
- Memory and the past
- Self-delusion

Themes in *The Glass Menagerie*

Theme:	Example 1: (with page number)	Examples 2: (with page number)