

12th Grade AP Literature and Composition
Summer Reading Prompt

In *The Writing of Fiction* (1925), novelist Edith Wharton states the following:

“At every stage in the progress of his tale the novelist must rely on what may be called the illuminating incident to reveal and emphasize the inner meaning of each situation. Illuminating incidents are the magic casements of fiction, its vistas on infinity.”

Using *A Streetcar Named Desire*, write a well-organized essay in which you describe an “illuminating” episode or moment and explain how it functions as a “casement,” a window that opens onto the meaning of the work as a whole. Avoid mere plot summary.

Your essay is due 10 days after school starts.