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91099



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Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

Level 2 English 2025

91099 Analyse specified aspect(s) of studied visual or oral text(s), supported by evidence

Credits: Four

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Analyse specified aspect(s) of studied visual or oral text(s), supported by evidence.	Analyse specified aspect(s) of studied visual or oral text(s) convincingly, supported by evidence.	Analyse specified aspect(s) of studied visual or oral text(s) perceptively, supported by evidence.

Check that the National Student Number (NSN) on your admission slip is the same as the number at the top of this page.

You should answer ONE of the essay questions in this booklet.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–12 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

Do not write in the margins (//////). This area will be cut off when the booklet is marked.

YOU MUST HAND THIS BOOKLET TO THE SUPERVISOR AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.

Excellence

TOTAL 07

Page 1

VISUAL OR ORAL TEXTS



Remember that this is the *visual / oral texts* essay



and **NOT** the written texts essay!

INSTRUCTIONS

Write an essay on at least ONE **visual or oral text** that you have studied, in response to ONE of the questions below.

QUESTIONS (Choose ONE)

1. Analyse how verbal aspects were used to enhance your experience.
2. Analyse how setting helped reveal the depth of a character.
“Setting” may refer to physical places as well as social and historical contexts.
3. Analyse how language features were combined to manipulate the audience’s response.
4. Analyse how structure was essential to understanding the director’s / creator’s purpose.
“Structure” may refer to the order, organisation, or conventions of a text.
5. Analyse how the ideas in the text made it binge-worthy.
“Ideas” may refer to character, theme, or setting.
6. Analyse how the ending of the text turned out to be a new beginning.
7. Analyse how contrast was essential to understanding one or more characters.
8. Analyse how ideas in the text made the director’s / creator’s purpose clear.
“Ideas” may refer to character, theme, or setting.

TEXT DETAILS

Visual / oral text type

Title

Director / creator

Visual / oral text type

Title

Director / creator

SELECTED QUESTION

Copy and paste the question you have chosen into the space below.

Analyse how ideas in the text made the director's / creator's purpose clear.

PLANNING

Quotes:

Alcoholism

"Lean on me.

No, just give me my crutch."

"Skipper is dead! I'm alive! Maggie the cat is-" [Brick hops awkwardly forward and strikes her again with his crutch]

"What is the victory of a cat on a hot tin roof? I wish I knew... Just staying on it, I guess, as long as she can..."

"I do love you, Brick, I do!

Brick: [smiling with charming sadness] Wouldn't it be funny if that were true?"

[General chatter has resumed; Everyone is chatting so that the stage is like a big bird cage.]

Symbolism of alcohol and Brick's crutch

ESSAY

Type your essay in the space below. You should aim to write a concise essay of no more than 750–800 words. The quality of your analysis is more important than the length of your essay. (The counter will change colour when you reach the recommended word count.)

Support the points you make with specific details from the text(s).

B I U ☰ ∨ ☰ ∨ ↶ ↷ ⓘ

People often feel trapped as they force themselves to external societal standards, which is deprecative to one's character and individuality. '*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*' is a drama production written by Tenesse Williams in 1955. This play explores the life of Brick, a repressed homosexual and his wife Maggie, as they live in a world surrounded by lies. The directors purpose is to disprove many of the highly regarded societal ideas at the time of the drama production being written, and reveal how they internally destroy people, and are a mechanism to exclude. These ideas are that of the nuclear family model, which Tenesse Williams himself, being a homosexual man, would have struggled in living up to.

William's uses Brick's crutch symbolically to show that the nuclear family model's 'perfect' image of a male was not entirely realistic. With the exception of his crutch, Brick is presented to be the spitting image of a male in the nuclear family model. He is strong, has had a successful sporting history, and is quite attractive, which fits this strong and independent male idea which was so highly regarded in Tenesse William's (1950's) America. However, despite almost fitting the mould, Brick is unable to do walk and move, some of the most basic things by himself. While Brick appears to be strong, and independent, befitting of the masculine male idea in the nuclear family model, in reality, he is dependent on his crutch to do even the most basic things. Through this, Williams is suggesting that while one may be close to achieving this external societal idea, it is impossible for it to be reached. Additionally, Brick's reliance on his crutch rather than his wife, Maggie, further disproves the nuclear family model. In Act 1, Maggie is attempting to form some sort of connection with Brick for which she says, "Lean on me." However, Brick still chooses his crutch as he responds, "No, just give me my crutch." Brick choosing his crutch rather than emotionally connecting with his wife, which is symbolic of his dependence and consequential inability to conform to the nuclear family idea. After all, if Brick, the image of the nuclear family idea's male, cannot genuinely connect with his wife, does that not make the nuclear family idea itself a facade? That is the directors purpose behind this, as Williams being a homosexual male himself would have struggled conforming to this idea. Through Brick's dependence on his crutch, Williams is cutting right through the idea of nuclear family model and proving that it is a fake, unrealistic standard.

Brick's dependence of alcohol is also symbolic of the internally-crushing extent people had to go to in their attempt to adhere to the nuclear family model. Contextually, the drama production takes place in 1950's America, where homophobia is normalised. Although it is not directly stated that Brick is gay, it is highly suggested that he had a slightly more-than-friends relationship with another male,

Skipper, before Skipper passed away. The drama production states that Brick keeps on drinking till he hears a "click", where all of his thoughts go away. This click, which can be interpreted as drunk, and he is drinking throughout the play. Brick's constant dependence on alcohol is so that he can repress his inner feelings and homosexuality, as being a homosexual man in 1950's America did not adhere to any societal ideas; rather it went against them. Brick goes to the extent of literally poisoning himself with alcohol almost all, if not the entirety, of the play in an attempt to repress himself, his individuality and adhere to external societal ideas such as the stereotypical male and the nuclear family model. William's purpose of Brick's alcoholism is to reveal the dilemma that homosexuals had to face at the time: be yourself but live as an outcast and stranger, or internally destroy your individuality, and the very way you love someone in an attempt to conform to an external idea to be validated. He is possibly referring to prior experiences he himself had, as Williams has dated women in the past despite his homosexuality. Williams is suggesting that in 1950's America, to adhere to societal ideas and be acceptable, some had to emotionally destroy themselves to do this, and that in reality these ideas are a mechanism of exclusion that force people to conform. This is seen as Brick himself is forced to depend on alcohol in an attempt to forget about himself and conform to an external idea.

Tennessee Williams uses the dialogue and line notes to reveal that the idea of love, as presented in the nuclear family model, is a facade and not realistic. While struggling to emotionally connect with Brick, Maggie states "What is the victory of a cat on a hot tin roof? I wish I knew... Just staying on it, I guess, as long as she can..." Despite not directly referring to Brick and her relationship, in light of their interactions it can be contextually assumed that this is what she's imagining. Maggie is suggesting that her relationship with Brick is akin to that of a cat being on a hot tin roof. If a cat was standing on something hot tin, it would be quite uncomfortable and in pain, because it's not meant to be there. Additionally, tin is a pure element. Through this dialogue, Williams is trying to demonstrate the difficulty of staying pure to oneself, as even when the cat stands on the hot tin, it is getting burned. It is being pressured to get off the pure tin, and go away from the purity and go elsewhere. This could represent the difficulty that people, like Williams, in 1950's America had with staying true to themselves and not conforming to societal ideas. Just like Brick is uncomfortable in his relationship with Maggie, it can be assumed that this is his attempt to conform to the nuclear family model idea, but internally he is getting destroyed (burned) by it. Supporting this stubbornness, and the idea that conforming is the only way, are Maggie's following words, "Just staying on it, I guess, as long as she can..." A cat, 'just staying' on a hot tin roof for as long as they could would make the cat be in agony as its feet would be burning. Perhaps Williams is trying to reveal that in one's attempt to conform to these societal expectations, they emotionally almost burn themselves, trying to be something they are not. Through this dialogue, Williams is revealing the damaging choices that people choose in order to attempt to conform to societal ideas, which destroy their individuality.

'*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*' is a play written by Tennessee Williams which challenges many of the highly regarded societal ideas at the time. This is reflective of Williams' perspective in his own attempts to conform to many of the societal expectations such as the nuclear family idea and male masculinity. The director's purpose was to reveal that these ideas are a facade, and many of the characters in his play revealed this through demonstrating their inability, despite being near in most aspects, to adhere to the nuclear family model's ideal, and to furthermore reveal the emotionally-crushing endeavour many homosexuals would have faced in trying to identify with something that they're not.

1218 WORDS / 800 RECOMMENDED

Excellence

Subject: English

Standard: 91099

Total score: 07

Grade score	Marker commentary
E7	This response on the drama production <i>Cat on a Hot Tin Roof</i> clearly explores key ideas such as masculinity and love, unpacking each in a sustained and convincing way. These ideas are consistently linked back to the playwright's purpose, demonstrating a strong understanding of how meaning is shaped in the text. The response is well structured, with the discussion handled maturely and insightfully.