

Pace and Rhythm Chart for 'A Streetcar Named Desire'

Scene 1	Introduction of Eunice, coloured woman, Stella and Stanley – relaxed pace
	Arrival of Blanche – disruption of routine / rhythm, 'fluffy bodice' is out of place
	Loss of Belle Reve – 'blows to face and body', funeral description – faster pace suggests past trauma
	Interactions of Stanley, Stella & Blanche – calmer pace – uneasy peace
Scene 2	Stanley vs. Blanche – medium paced papers conversation, back and forth & sexual tension
	Slower pace: Blanche says 'we've thrashed everything out'
Scene 3	Start of Poker game = fast paced but low tension, lots of friendly banter
	Increasing pace when the girls get home, Mitch goes to bathroom, Stanley turns off radio, Stanley shouts
	Slow conversation between Mitch and Blanche – her magical world?
	Fast pace – Stanley breaks radio, beats Stella, lots of screaming and commotion
	Slow paced end – Stanley sobbing, Stella coming down, Blanche worried
Scene 4	Stella's 'narcotized tranquillity' the morning after the beating
	Blanches' nervous agitation on entering: 'What were you thinking? Answer me! What? What?'
	Blanche discusses Shep and Stanley is an animal – slow pace but tense
Scene 5	Blanche writes a letter to Shep
	Eunice and Steve fight – she runs away to the pub – slightly comic
	Stanley asks if Blanche knows anyone called Shaw – slow but tense
	Blanche's breathless details about her not being 'so good' – hysterical scream when coke spills
	Blanche and the Young Man – slow but considerable sexual tension
Scene 6	Blanche and Mitch – small talk after the date –slow even when B. rolls eyes
	Blanche talks about her husband (Allan's) death – sense she has failed him – locomotive roar
	Blanche and Mitch – 'Could it be – you and me, Blanche?'
Scene 7	Faster pace because lots of info when Stanley talks with excitement about Blanche's history
	This story is also interrupting the rhythm / routine of Blanche's singing and bathing
	Stanley and Stella argue over bus ticket, Stanley ejects Blanche from bathroom, Blanche realises something's wrong
Scene 8	Starts off slow but Blanche's frantic attempts to make conversation increase pace quickly
	Sudden further rise in tension - Stanley called a 'pig' and smashes the plate, Blanche wants to call Mitch
	Stella & Stanley's coloured lights conversation – Blanche calls Mitch – Stella lights the candles
	Stanley called a Polack, Phone rings – not Mitch, Bus ticket to Blanche, Stella goes into labour
Scene 9	Aggressive exchange between Mitch & Blanche
	Blanche talking about the soliders & her past – lots of info but slow and sad
	Sudden rise in pace right at the end – Mitch's attempted rape and Blanche shouts 'Fire!'
Scene 10	Rapid conversation between S. & B. – he plays along with her lies about an oil millionaire
	She calls him swine – build up to rape – lurid reflections, inhuman voices, locomotive roars, frantic phone calls
Scene 11	Stella, Blanche & Eunice talk – Blanche will die of an unwashed grape
	Blanche panics and runs from the matron, Stanley helps catch her, Mitch tries to hit her, Stella 'What have I done.'
	Blanche leaves calmly, Stanley and Stella end up together

Pace / Rhythm – note this is not the same thing as tension: slow pace can be high tension