

Glass menagerie screen symbols essay



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

One of the main themes in *The Glass Menagerie* is the pursuit of happiness. Throughout the book/playwright, the characters are constantly trying to make their life more enjoyable. The Screen images and phrases I have chosen reveal the theme of “pursuit of happiness”. When the screen legend displays the phrase “Ou sont les neiges d’antan” a sense of pursuit is created.

Meaning “Where does the snow fall?”, the characters are looking for this hope, where snow resembles rebirth and a new hope. This search expresses the pursuit of happiness. As this screen legend is more symbolic, the screen image “A swarm of typewrites” is slightly more literal. This “swarm of typewriters” acts as a evil swarm of bees raining down on Laura just like Amanda.

Amanda’s expectations act as if they were a “swarm”, chasing and forcing Laura to achieve success. (pursuit of happiness). The screen image of “The cover of a glamour magazine” also symbolizes this pursuit of happiness. It’s kind of ironic that the name of the magazine is *Glamour*, however Amanda is desperately selling the magazine to achieve her own “Glamour”. I also chose the screen legend of “You think I’m in love with Continental Shoemakers?”.

This screen legend expresses the fact that Tom is going against his desires to achieve a greater happiness. He does not like his job, but it brings in the money which in Amanda’s eyes is a form of happiness. Tom however dreams of doing his own thing, so therefore I chose the screen image of “A sailing vessel with Jolly Roger”. In Tom’s perspective he sees adventure and

freedom as a his form of happiness. One day, Tom wants to be this adventurous and this screen image is what Tom desires or pursuits to be.

In many cases, Amanda is using Laura to pursuit her own happiness.

Therefore I chose the screen legend of “ Plans and Provisions”. This legend explains how Amanda is making plans to kick off or help Laura’s pursuit to happiness(actually Amanda’s happiness). Also as another way showing Amanda’s obnoxious pursuit to happiness through Laura, I chose the screen image of “ A gentleman caller with a bouquet”.

This is Amanda’s view of success. A gentlemen caller means money and money means happiness, so once again this is another way she pursuits her happiness. The next screen legend I chose was involved with my theme because of its importance of its emphasis. The screen image “ The clerk” emphasizes the imagery of work (Jim’s work).

The work is done to make money and succeed and the fact that it is emphasizing this, I believe makes it apply to the “ pursuit of happiness”. The screen legend “ the accent of a coming foot”, explains how they are anticipating something good, and once again this is applying to the theme. When the screen legend of “ A pretty trap” is displayed, I thought it was a way of showing the harshness of the situation. The desire to have success is so great, that it has come down to setting “ traps”. As the screen legend shows “ The Opening of a Door”, I interpreted this as the characters anticipating this as a step to happiness. It is made so dramatic that the letters are capitalizes creating a sense of urgency to get the door opened, get a gentlemen caller, get money, get success and eventually happiness.

Another key screen legend is the “ Executive at his desk”. This image expresses Amanda’s idea of success word for word. She wants this out of Tom and her husband. This shows Amanda’s desire for happiness and when a man is successful she is happy. Finally the screen legend of “ Love! ” shows the last one that I have chosen.

Love is what Laura was looking for, and falling in love will lead to a happy successful life; another sign of the never-ending pursuit of happiness.