

## The Memory Play in American Drama

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**cavalier:** a term often used to describe the romanticized "aristocratic" manners and mores of the plantation society of the pre-Civil War South. (Students might find it interesting that the argument has been made that Sir Walter Scott's novels were widely read in the plantation South - and perhaps influenced some of the attitudes, manners and mores of this society).

**D.A.R.:** Daughters of the American Revolution - an organization composed only of women whose ancestors participated in the American Revolutionary War

**"drummer":** a colloquial term for a traveling salesman. (An explanation of the phrase "drum up business" is one interesting way to help clarify the term)

**episodic:** a series of self-contained units, linked by a main theme

**Expressionism:** a late 19th and early 20th century art movement advocating that art should be a direct expression of the inner feelings or heightened emotions of an individual through distortion or exaggerated obtrusion into the "outside" reality rather than building art that tries to objectively recreate the external "real". Such art builds with intense color, strong hyperbolic shapes, and dramatic contrasts.

**extrinsic:** on the outside, as opposed to intrinsic, meaning something within

**Greek Unities:** Aristotles' principles of Greek Tragedy, which affirm that action in a drama must occur within twenty- four hours, in one place, with one theme (no subplot or comic relief) to achieve heightened concentration in the presentation.

**Guernica:** a northern Spanish town destroyed by indiscriminate fascist bombing during the Spanish Civil War; the title of a famous Picasso painting inspired by the event

**Impressionism:** a 19th century movement in art that builds on the artist's subjective impressions rather than trying to objectively recreate the "actuality" of the way things are. (The study of how light figures in the work of the visual art of Impressionism would help reinforce analysis of the way Tennessee Williams uses light in *The Glass Menagerie*.)

**Martha Graham:** a pioneer of Modern Dance who drew heavily from Freudian and Jungian theories in developing psychological profiles in dance idiom. Graham integrated concepts of Impressionism, Expressionism, and Surrealism in building her choreography from the "inside out."

**Naturalism:** this art movement grew out of Realism and sustained into the first decades of the 20th century. The Naturalists, influenced particularly by the theories of Charles Darwin and Herbert Spencer, explored such topics as the impact of heredity and environment and "survival of the fittest" on the helpless.

**non-linear:** opposite of "linear" which follows a logical straight line of development (A to Z); "non- linear" devices in drama - such as the use of a structure that moves in and out of sequenced time, and special technical effects - can build a "third dimension" of experience.

**Realism:** a late 19th century art movement that centered on the idea that art should present the life of ordinary people as they actually live it rather than in an idealized, imaginative version. The artist of this movement, reacting against Romantic modes of expression, was a scientific observer and recorder, working to build a "photograph" of a "slice of life."

**Surrealism:** an early 20th century art movement advocating that the "real world" was within the inner consciousness of the human mind and that art should build from the full expression of this inner consciousness without any censorship or editing. Such art "transcends" logical intelligence by recording the image-forming powers of the mind without making logical connections for the "receiver" of the art expression.

**verisimilitude:** the quality in an imaginary work that makes the work seem true to external reality

**Victorianism, Puritanism, Southern Puritanism:** these references project the idea of a strict moral code and strong religious beliefs that are in conflict, particularly, with the Freudian ideas of sex and the Darwinian theory of evolution. Victorianism also carries the connotation of prudery in habits and manners, and the tone quality of a certain degree of arrogance.