**Outline**

**Theme**

* His desire to follow his dreams whilst not hurting his family

**Context**

* Scene 4
* After Tom and Amanda’s fight
* Tom comes back drunk in the middle of the night

**Setting**

* fire escape
* the Wingfield apartment

**Summary**

* Tom is trying to get into the house after coming back from the movies
* He drops he’s house key
* Laura opens the door and starts questioning where he was
* Tom explains that he was at the movies and that it was a long program
* He talks about the movies and also that there was a magician
* He excitingly talks about the trick the magician did
* Laura stops him because Amanda’s is asleep and he is being loud

**Character analysis**

* Laura
  + Worried about Tom
    - Line 29
  + Cares a lot about Amanda
    - Line 48
  + Suspicious about Tom’s actions
    - Repetition of question marks, (questioning)
* Tom
  + Wants to get out of his current life
    - Line 41 “2x4 situation”
      * Hyperbole to explain how trapped he is
  + Nailed up coffin
    - Line 51
      * Metaphor for the situation that he cant escape from (his current life)
  + Doesn’t want to hurt others
    - Line 52
      * Nails -> symbolizes Laura and Amanda
    - Line 51-52
      * Escaping without hurting Laura or Amanda

**Theme analysis**

* His desire to follow his dreams whilst not hurting his family
  + Magic trick is an illusion
    - Tom believes that proceeding his dreams is not “possible”
      * Without hurting Amanda and Laura “removing the nails”

**Mood and Imagery analysis**

* Interaction shows that the mood is conversational at the beginning
* Tom’s monologue provides a enthusiastic and emotional mood (he expresses his hopes and dreams throughout the description of the magic trick)
* Imagery
  + Line 7
    - Shower of movie ticket stubs
      * Clarifies the audiences suspicion of he not being at the movies
  + Line 1-8
    - Provides background information about the scene to make it more understandable
      * Tom being drunk
  + Lines 31-42
    - Each of the magic tricks (described in the stylistic devices)

**Stylistic Devices**

* Line 24-27
  + Repetition of “and a”
    - Emphasizes that he has been drinking as his speech is impaired
* Line 7 -8
  + Key (symbol)
    - Foreshadows that he will be able to leave the apartment but the falling of the key symbolizes that he won’t be coming back
* Line 4
  + Fire Escape
    - Tom’s way out of his current life
* Line 31-42
  + Magic trick
    - Changing water into whiskey
      * Could be a metaphor for Amanda and how she becomes more dominant throughout the play
    - Scarf covering a canary cage and transforming it into a bowl of goldfish and back into a canary cage
      * The scarf could be symbolizing Jim, and the transition from cage to bowl back to cage could foreshadow how Laura changed from shy to confident to shy again and all of those changes were because of Jim (the scarf)
    - Escaping the coffin without removing any nails
      * The way tom wishes to escape from the mindless job and demanding family
      * The nails symbolize Laura and Amanda
        + Scene 1 “the opposite of a stage magician”
        + He won’t be able to escape without influencing Laura’s and Amanda’s life
  + Line 54
    - “father’s grinning photograph”
      * He was the one who escaped

**Links**

* He isn’t really able to escape from his life without “removing any nails”
  + Scene 7
    - He wasn’t really able to escape from his life
      * He has flashbacks or illusions about Laura

**Final Thoughts**

* It’s the first time that Tennessee Williams shows Tom as he really is and what his true desires really are
  + To escape without hurting his family