**Theme**:

Acknowledgement and acceptance of her uniqueness and her reality

**Context:**

Jim came over as a gentleman caller. Amanda has prepared an amazing dinner. Laura realizes that Jim is the boy she had a crush on in high school. After dinner Jim and Laura have a nice conversation.

**Setting:**

Apartment of Amanda, Laura, and Tom

**Summary:**

Jim knocks over the unicorn but Laura accepts is genuinely. He states how pretty and unique she is.

**Theme Analysis:**

Acknowledgement and acceptance of her uniqueness and her reality

* The purpose of the passage is to show the progression of Laura’s character
* The passage is a wake up call for Laura
  + Realization that being different is good, and makes her special
    - Just as her unicorn was special for being different to all the other glass horses
* The importance of this passage is that it lets Laura experiment with a little bit of reality, which the Wingfield family was set apart from
* One of the main themes of the play as a whole is the acceptance of reality, or illusion vs reality.
  + This passage shows some of the steps which pulled the Wingfield family closer to accepting reality.
    - While Laura wanted to ignore reality (her crippled leg)
      * “Now he will feel more at home with the other horses”
    - Jim tries to make her accept it and let it go instead
      * “being different is nothing to be ashamed of”

**Character Analysis:**

* Laura
  + Used to be shy and not self confident
  + This changes once she meets Jim
  + In the passage:
  + “freckles”
    - joking around with Jim (build up of confidence)
  + doesn’t care that her unicorn broke
  + “they both laugh”
    - she’s comfortable being with him
    - out of her shyness
  + “Laura nods…. Away”
    - realizes that she is different and that it’s not a bad thing. People will accept and love you the way you are
  + “like all other horses”
    - Laura starts to think that she’s normal and just like everyone else. Also states how she feels that she must be “normal” in order to fit into society
  + “You’re different”
    - Jim brings her back to reality => that she is different
    - However, tell her that being different is good
  + “unicorn”
    - symbolism of her
  + “horn”
    - symbolism of whatever was holding her back (shyness, lack of self-confidence, crippled…)
  + Blue Roses
    - Her uniqueness
* Jim
  + The only realistic character in the play
  + “Still I’m awfully sorry that I was the cause”
    - someone that can admit their own mistakes and take responsibility for it
    - even though he used to be a “hero” in high school, it’s seen that he’s not arrogant and that he cares about other people a lot
  + “Surprisingly different from anyone else I know!”
    - extremely honest and straight forward
  + “you’re pretty”
    - honest but can lead to wrong conclusions and misunderstandings
  + “I wish that you were my sister”
    - protective of her
    - hints that he’s not interested in her in more than a friend
    - appreciates her a lot
  + “they both laugh”
    - he’s comfortable being with her

**Analysis of Mood and Imagery**

* beginning => light-toned, friendly, comfortable, natural
  + “smiling”
  + “they both laugh”
  + shown that Laura has overcome her shyness
* End => serious, heavy, insecure, nervous, tense
  + “suddenly serious”
  + a lot more stage direction
  + monologue of Jim with stage directions in between for Laura
    - Laura is uncomfortable
  + A lot of exclamation marks
    - Jim wants to express a message (Laura’s reality of her uniqueness)
  + “music rises slightly”
    - getting closer to reality => Jim’s engagement
    - Laura’s excitement or hope for requited love
* Very last line=> mood & emotion change
  + “music changes”
    - foreshadows that emotions of characters will change
* imagery => not many, however a lot of stage directions for Laura’s actions, emotions, and reactions
  + “abashed and beyond speech” => overly surprised, unexpected
  + “nods shyly, looking away” => embarrassed,
  + “touches her throat and clears it” => nervous, tense

**Analysis of Stylistic Devices**

* symbolism
  + unicorn & horn
* stage directions:
  + very few in beginning, increases in the end at Jim’s monologue to build up the mood
* -
  + pauses in the conversation to show that the characters are thinking
    - “you’re-well-very different”
    - “but-you-well-you’re-Blue Roses”
* “they are as common as weeds”
  + weeds => negative connotation
  + comparison of weeds to ordinary people
    - being normal is “negative”
* “it’s a blessing in disguise”
  + the broken unicorn is “good”
    - this allowed her to have an opportunity to overcome her shyness, fears, self-confidence, etc

**Links:**

* Turning point for Laura’s character
  + Transition from shy and introverted to open and confident
* This passage shows Laura at her most confident stage throughout the play
  + Jim’s monologue gets Laura closer to reality
* The unicorn and the breaking of its horn compared to Laura and the acceptance of her defects as common and special things (her being crippled)

**Final thoughts:**

* The importance of this passage is that it is closely connected to the central theme of the entire play, and it shows the turning point and character progression of Laura. It supports Tom’s statement on scene I when he says “he is the long-delayed but always expected something that we live for” referring to Jim. Jim was what Laura was possibly needing in order to overcome her shyness.