Internal Oral Commentary

„ The Glass Menagerie“

Scene 7

**Context**

* Before this extract, Laura is alone with Jim and shows him his glass collection. She trusts him with holding her favourite ornament, the unicorn, and they are getting to know each other better.
* After this extract, Jim tells Laura that he is in Love with someone else and that he will not call her again. He leaves the apartment and when Amanda finds out the truth about the evitable gentlemen caller, she lets go off her illusions and accepts the reality of her life.

**Setting**

* Laura and Jim are in the living room of Laura´s apartment.
  + The whole play takes place in the apartment and is a symbol for the introverted life of Laura´s family and that they are incapable of living in the “real world”. They have isolated themselves in their tiny little apartment creating their own reality and living their illusions

**Summary**

* The glass unicorn falls of the table and the horn falls off. Jim is really sorry for the accident but Laura is not mad at him. She imagines that the unicorn had an operation and is now like all the other horses. He tells her that she is very pretty but in a different way than all the other people. However, when the tension between them gets higher, he makes clear that she is like a sister for him and that there isn

Analysis

1. **Theme**

Laura´s positive changing attitude towards her uniqueness and her increasing acknowledgement of reality

1. **Characters**

Laura and Jim are the only characters that are appearing in this extract.

* + Laura´s is acting incredibly shy and flattered.
  + Jim is the one how is leading the conversation and Laura simply agrees with everything he says. (“Yes” Line 4 and 6)
  + Laura´s attitude towards Jim changes, because as the conversation between them goes on, her feelings for him increase as well

1. **Mood and Imagery**

* *Music=* The music in this scene reflects the emotions of the characters. When the music rises, so does the tension between Jim and Laura in this scene. When he tells her she is pretty, her feelings towards him increase and then she turns back into the shy flattered girl when he tells her she is like a sister to him.

(“There is a pause and the music rises slightly” Line 31)

* The mood changes in the middle of the extract. When Jim tells Laura that she is pretty, her hopes rise and so the tension between the two of them rises
* However when he tells her that she is like a sister to him, her hopes are destroyed and the mood changes “suddenly serious” (19)

1. **Stylistic Devices**

Repition: In the lines 34 until 36 the adjective “different” is repeated several times. Jim uses when he describes Laura. In this way he emphasizes that he likes Laura for herself although she is different.

Simile: “They´re common as weeds” (Line 37)

With this simile, Jim compares all the other people to weeds, while Laura is “blue roses” he doesn’t understand that Laura would like to be like everyone else but she knows that she isn´t so she decided to hide from the world.

Symbols:

*The glass unicorn*= stands for Laura herself. It is fragile and breakable and so is Laura. “If you breath, it breaks”. And there is no place for someone “made out of glass” in the modern world. . The fate of the unicorn is also a smaller-scale version of Laura’s fate in Scene Seven. Without its horn, the unicorn is more appropriate for him than for her, and the broken figurine represents all that he has taken from her and destroyed in her.

*Blue Roses=* Another symbol for Laura that represents her early relationship with Jim. He used to call her Blue Roses because he misunderstood her when she explained her illness “pleurosis”. The name is also associated with Laura’s attraction to Jim and the joy that his kind treatment brings her.

**Links**

The given extract from scene 7 links to a monolog in Scene 1. It is Tom who says the following statement about Jim at the very beginning of the play:

“*He is the most realistic character in the play, being an emissary from a world of reality that we were somehow set apart from. But since I have a poet's weakness for symbols, I am using this character also as a symbol; he is the long-delayed but always expected something that we live for”.*

The analysis of the extract in scene 7 shows that the statement above foreshadows the significant role of Jim in this play. He “breaks” the well-protected and illusionary world of the Wingfields when he walks in their apartment. When he enters Lauras live, she finally gets a glance of something that’s realistic and that’s worth living for. Besides that, he opens Amandas eyes who is no longer able to hold her illusion up after he told her that she he is not the gentlemen caller for her daughter.

**Final thoughts**

The beginning of the extract gives the reader a glimmer of hope that Laura might changes from a peculiar girl without any self-confidence into a normal girl that is able to have a relationship to someone else than her family. He trusts Jim and accepts the fact that her favourite glass unicorn lost his horn and is now like all the other horses. However, this hope gets destroyed right away when Jim tells her that she is like a sister to him.