Vocabulary for *The Glass Menagerie*

1. Implacable: unable to be placated (appeased)

2. Tenement: A room/rooms that form a separate residence in a house; a block of apartments

3. Portiere: (PORE dee er) a curtain hung over a doorway

4. Masticate: to chew

5. Elegiac: (el a JAY ik) wistfully mournful

6. Elegy: a poem of serious reflection, typically a lament for the dead

7. Beaux: boyfriend or male admirer

8. Kitchenette: a small kitchen or part of a room equipped at one

9. Martyr: a person killed for religious or other beliefs; exaggerating pain to get sympathy

10. Specter: something widely feared, e.g. a ghost or nuclear holocaust

11. Cow-lick: hair that grows in the wrong direction and resists being tamed

12. Matron: a married woman

13. Sublimation: diverting unacceptable behaviors to those more acceptable

14. Subliminal: unconscious mental process

15. Relic: old objects, esp. of historical interest; part of a dead holy person’s body or belongings

16. Patronage: support, often with the power to control, sometimes condescending

17. Insolence: rude

18. Aghast: horrified or shocked

19. Pinion: tie or hold someone’s arms or legs, a bird’s wing as used in flight

20. Avert: Turn away (one’s eyes or thoughts); prevent something from happening

21. Solemn: formal and dignified

22. Bower: a pleasant shady place under trees or climbing plants

23. Endowment: income or property given or bequeathed

24. Bequeath: an inheritance

25. Dismal: depressing, dreary

26. Fiasco: complete failure, esp. in a ludicrous or humiliating way

27. Importunate: (im POR che net) troublesomely urgent, overly persistent in request or demand

28. Emulate: imitate

29. Imminent: about to happen

30. Bombardment: a continuous attack with bombs, shells, or other missiles

31. Demure: a reserved, modest, and shy woman

32. Veranda: a roofed platform outside a house, level with the ground floor; a type of porch

33. Supercilious: behaving or looking as though one thinks one is superior to others

34. Illuminate: make something visible or bright by shining a light on it; to clarify something

35. Eloquent: fluent or persuasive in speaking or writing, well-spoken

36. Velocity: the speed of something in a given direction

37. Unobtrusive: not conspicuous or attracting attention

38. Radiance: light or heat emitted or reflected by something

39. Cotillion: a formal ball, esp. one where debutantes are presented

40. Debutant: a person making a first appearance in fashionable society

41. Promenade: a leisurely walk with the intention of meeting or being seen by people

42. Sashay: walk in an exaggerated manner, swinging hips and shoulders

43. Mincing: purposely dainty

44. Giddy: dizzy or excitable and frivolous

45. Ominous: giving the impression that something bad is about to happen

46. Lyrically: expressing emotions in an imaginative and beautiful way

47. Imperious: assuming authority without justification; arrogant and domineering

48. Preposterous: utterly absurd or ridiculous

49. Incandescent: an object that glows at a high temperature, such as coal

Marquees: (mar KEY) a tall roof-like structure, often with a sign over an entrance (theater or hotel)

50. Vivacity: lively and animated in an attractive way

51. Paragon: a person or thing regarded as a perfect example of a particular quality.

52. Vestige: a trace of something that is disappearing or no longer exists

53. Tribulations: a cause of great trouble or suffering

54. Rhapsodic: (rap SOD ik) extravagantly emotional

55. Exposition: a public display or art or trade goods

56. Heigh-ho: usually an expression of boredom, occasionally of great joy

57. Wincing: reacting with a slight involuntary grimace or shrinking movement

58. Beleaguered: in a very difficult situation

59. Indolent: lazy

60. Tumult: confusion or disorder

61. Aptitude: a natural ability or tendency

62. Eclipsed: deprive someone or something of significance, power, or prominence

63. Perturbation: anxiety

64. Desolation: emptiness or destruction; anguished misery or loneliness

65. Tyranny: Cruel and oppressive rule 66. Jaunty: confidently lively and cheerful

67. Sphinx: Egyptian stone figure with a lion’s body and a human or animal head\*

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68. Voile: A thin, semitransparent fabric of cotton, wool or silk

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69. Jonquils: small fragrant yellow flowers \* Sphinxes, represented in various shapes and forms, were not only part of Egyptian culture. They were also common throughout the ancient Middle East and Greece. In Greek mythology and art, the Sphinx was a winged monster with the head and breasts of a woman and the body of a lion. In the legend of Oedipus, she acts as a destructive agent of the gods, presenting this riddle: “What walks on four feet in the morning, on two at noon and on three in the evening?” She killed all who failed to answer. Oedipus solved the riddle thus: “Man crawls on all fours as a baby, walks upright in the prime of life and uses a staff in old age.” After the riddle was solved, the Sphinx killed herself.