Character Analysis: Stanley Kowalski

In Tennessee Williams' play, "A Streetcar Named Desire," readers are introduced to a character named Stanley Kowalski. Though he seems to be loyal to his friends and caring towards his wife, he is actually the opposite. As the play unfolds, Williams uses three methods so that readers can understand who Stanley Kowalski really is: first, what Williams himself tells you about Stanley; second, what the Stanley says or does; and third, what other characters say or do concerning Stanley. Williams goes into great detail describing Stanley to the reader shortly after he is introduced in the play. He is of medium height, about five feet eight inches, and has a very compact, sinewy build. Stanley takes pleasure from the simple things in life, such as women. According to Williams, since an early age, the center of Stanley's life has been pleasures with women. From this complete and fulfilling center, branches his other interests: poker, bowling, cars, rough humor, and beer. When Blanche arrives in New Orleans, she looks down on him because of his simple interests, and the fact that his lineage originated in Poland. Overall, Williams paints a picture of a strong, stubborn man who can cause severe damage when upset. Stanley is a primitive, ape-like man, and he frequently resorts to violence. His first exhibition of brutal actions occurs at poker night. Blanche turns on the radio, but Stanley demands her to turn it off. She refuses and he gets upset. He barges into the room, grabs the radio, and throws it out the window. His friends immediately jump up, and try to sober him up. This is the first of many times, violence is his solution. Eventually, he beats up Stella and rapes Blanche. Also, through his words, it is evident that he has no respect for women. He constantly berates Blanche, commenting on her drinking, her lying, and her past relationships. He ruins Blanche's relationship with Mitch, in an attempt to better his life. He is not understanding, and he must have his way always. At the opening of the play, Stella says, "I can hardly stand it when he is away for a night...And when he comes back I cry on his lap like a baby..." (2291). This quote shows his power over the people in his life. He forces Stella into a subservient position, and she believes that life without Stanley is unlivable. Though Stella is oblivious to the real Stanley, Blanche can see right through him. "He acts like and animal...Eats like one, moves like one, talks like one!" (2313). Despite of Blanche's harsh words, Stella always goes back to him. Blanche and Stanley never get along; they are two opposing forces. With these three points of view from which one can derive information about characters, one can achieve a better understanding of Stanley. Although he appears good at first, he truly is the villain of the play. His violence, rudeness, and vulgarness all break the idea of a kind host. Somehow everyone is blind to this except Blanche; maybe it take a crooked mind to see things straight. Character analysis stanley kowalski tennessee williams play streetcar named desire readers introduced character named stanley kowalski though seems loyal friends caring towards wife actually opposite play unfolds williams use s three methods that readers understand stanley kowalski really first what williams himself tells ab out second what says does third what other character concerning goes into great detail describing re ader shortly after introduced play medium height about five feet eight inches very compact sinewy bu ild takes please from simple things life such women according since early center life been pleasures with women from this complete fulfilling center branches other interests poker bowling cars rough h umor beer when blanche arrives orleans looks down because simple interests fact that lineage origina ted poland overall paints picture strong stubborn cause severe damage when upset primitive like freq uently resorts violence first exhibition brutal actions occurs poker night blanche turns radio deman ds turn refuses gets upset barges into room grabs radio throws window friends immediately jump sober this first many times violence solution eventually beats stella rapes blanche also through words ev ident that respect women constantly berates commenting drinking lying past relationships ruins relat ionship with Mitch attempt better life understanding must have always opening stella says hardly sta nd when away night comes back like baby this quote shows power over people forces stella into subser vint position believes without unlivable though oblivious real right through acts like animal eats moves talks despite harsh words always goes back never along they opposing forces with these three p oints view from which derive information about characters achieve better understanding although appe ars good truly villain violence rudeness vulgarness break idea kind host somehow everyone blind exce pt maybe take crooked mind things straightEssay, essays, termpaper, term paper, termpapers, term pap ers, book reports, study, college, thesis, dissertation, test answers, free research, book research, study help, download essay, download term papers