

Glass Menagerie Show Information

Character Breakdown

Laura Wingfield

- Amanda's daughter and Tom's older sister.
- Laura has a bad leg, on which she has to wear a brace, and walks with a limp.
- Twenty-three years old and painfully shy, she has largely withdrawn from the outside world and devotes herself to old records and her collection of glass figurines.

Tom Wingfield

- Amanda's son and Laura's younger brother.
- An aspiring poet, Tom works at a shoe warehouse to support the family.
- He is frustrated by the numbing routine of his job and escapes from it through movies, literature, and alcohol.

Jim O'Connor

- An old acquaintance of Tom and Laura.
- Jim was a popular athlete in high school and is now a shipping clerk at the shoe warehouse in which Tom works.
- He is unwaveringly devoted to goals of professional achievement and ideals of personal success.

Show Summary

No Spoilers!

Amanda Wingfield is a faded remnant of Southern gentility who now lives in a dingy South Louis apartment with her son, Tom, and her daughter, Laura, who has a physical handicap and debilitating shyness. The father has left home; Tom supports his mother and sister with a shoe-factory job he finds unbearable. When Amanda convinces Tom to bring home from his workplace a “gentleman caller” for Laura, the illusions that Tom, Amanda, and Laura have created in order to make life bearable collapse around them.

Additional Resources

I would highly recommend reviewing the resources for Glass Menagerie on Sparknotes

- <https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/menagerie/characters/>

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Also, I think this video is especially helpful for understanding the plot

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f2iSwdg9qfg&t=396s>

