

# SCENE: THE GLASS MENAGERIE (2F)

## Acting Notes

**Laura:** Hello Mother, I was ... uh ...

**Amanda:** Deception? Deception? (*She slowly removes her hat and gloves, silently staring her daughter down. She lets her hat and gloves fall on the ground*)

**Laura:** (*Nervously*) How was the D.A.R. meeting? Didn't you go to the D.A.R. meeting, Mother?

**Amanda:** (*Quietly furious*) No ... no. I did not have the strength – to go to the D.A.R. In fact, I did not have the courage. I wanted to find a hole in the ground and hide myself in it forever.

**Laura:** (*Faintly*) Why did you do that Mother? Why are you ...

**Amanda:** Why? Why? How old are you Laura?

**Laura:** (*Trying to calm the situation down*) Mother, you know my age.

**Amanda:** I thought that you were an adult; it seems that I was mistaken.

**Laura:** Please don't stare at me, Mother.

**Amanda:** What are we going to do, what is going to become of us, what is the future?

**Laura:** Has something happened Mother? (*Pause*) Mother, has ... something happened?

**Amanda:** I'll be all right in a minute, I'm just bewildered ... by life ...

**Laura:** Mother, I wish that you would tell me what's happened!

**Amanda:** As you know, I was supposed to be inducted into my office at the D.A.R. this afternoon. But I stopped off at Rubicam's Business College to speak to your teachers about your having a cold and ask them what progress they thought you were making down there.

**Laura:** Oh ...

## Blocking Notes

**Amanda:** I went to the typing instructor and introduced myself as your mother. She didn't know who you were. "Wingfield?" she said. We don't have any such student enrolled at the school! I assured her she DID, that you had been going to classes since early in January. "I wonder," she said, "if you could be talking about that terribly shy little girl who dropped out of school after only a few days' attendance?" "No," I said, "Laura, my daughter, has been going to school every day for the past six years!" "Excuse me," she said. She took the attendance book out and there was your name, unmistakably printed, and all the dates you were absent until they decided that you had dropped out of school. I still said, "No, there must have been some mistake! There must have been some mix-up in the records!" And she said, "No – I remember her perfectly now. Her hands shook so that she couldn't hit the right keys! The first time we gave a speed-test, she broke down completely – was sick at the stomach and almost had to be carried into the wash-room! After that morning she never showed up any more. We phoned the house but never got any answer" (*Pause*) I felt so weak I could barely keep on my feet! I had to sit down while they got me a glass of water! Fifty dollars' tuition, all of our plans – my hopes and ambitions for you – just gone up the spout, just gone up the spout like that.

**Laura:** Oh.

**Amanda:** Laura ... where have you been going when you've gone out pretending that you were going to business college?

**Laura:** I've just been going out walking.

**Amanda:** That's not true.

**Laura:** It is. I just went walking.

**Amanda:** Walking? Walking? In winter? Deliberately courting pneumonia in that light coat? Where did you walk to, Laura?

**Laura:** All sorts of places – mostly in the park.

**Amanda:** Even after you'd started catching that cold?

**Laura:** It was the lesser of two evils, Mother. I couldn't go back up. I ... threw up ... on the floor!

**Amanda:** From half past seven till after five every day you mean to tell me you walked around in the park, because you wanted to make me think that you were still going to Rubicam's Business College?

**Laura:** It wasn't as bad as it sounds. I went inside places to get warmed up.

**Amanda:** Inside where?

**Laura:** I went in the art museum and the bird-houses at the Zoo. I visited the penguins every day! Sometimes I did without lunch and went to the movies. Lately I've been spending most of my afternoons in the Jewel-box, that big glass house where they raise the tropical flowers.

**Amanda:** You did all this to deceive me, just for deception? *(Pause)* Why?

**Laura:** Mother, when you're disappointed, you get that awful suffering look on your face, like the picture of Jesus' mother in the museum!

**Amanda:** Oh hush!

**Laura:** I couldn't face it!