# Character Analysis: Maggie and Moolah

1. **primps**
2. **hoists**
3. **cashmere**
4. **proverbial**
5. **relevance**
6. **debut**
7. **stake**
8. **keenly**
9. **wield**
10. **entice**

Maggie is, well, a cat. She is also a ­­­­­­survivor. We learn that her father was an ­alcoholic and that her mother sewed her clothes when she was growing up. They didn't have things like \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sweaters. When she made her debut into Southern Society (a.k.a. went to a fancy party full of cats on hot tin roofs), she only had two dresses: one, a hand-me-down, and the other, sewn by her mother.

Now, doesn't it seem like Maggie knows a little too much about where clothes come from and about other people's business? Exactly. She likes to Gossip with a capital "G." While it is not certain *how* she \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ herself up into Southern society with so little, we know she pulls it off, because Brick tells his father that he and Gooper both married into *society*.

So when we put the pieces of the cat puzzle together, we get a sense of how hard Maggie has worked to make something of herself. She's college educated. She has married into wealth. And she comes from nothing. She is ­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ aware of Mae Pollitt's background. Even though Maggie made her \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Nashville, and Mae made hers in Memphis, she knows Mae's story by way of Memphis friends. She knows Mae's family lost all of their money and, as a result, climbed the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ social ladder to stay cool in the eyes of society.

Who the heck is "society"? What is it, and, as usual, why do we care? Maggie makes fun of the fact that Mae was a cotton carnival queen, telling the story of how a recent cotton carnival queen was spit upon by someone with a mouth full of tobacco juice. In telling this story, Maggie seems to be making some kind of point about the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the much-loved beauty pageant. She also follows the social rise and fall of others more closely than TheSuperficial.com. It's a dog-eat-dog world, and she knows it.

Maggie likes money, and all her hollering makes us think her deepest wish is to have a baby with Brick, or at the very least to get busy with Brick. While he is disgusted by her, Maggie is…how can we put this delicately…very determined to sleep with him throughout the play. She has brought Brick to Big Daddy's birthday so that they might \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ their claim in Big Daddy's wealth. Brick is on a ship to Echo Spring and he is no longer the breadwinner. Without a steady income and without a piece of Big Daddy's pie, she and Brick could drown in a sea of Echo Spring, and Maggie could find herself right back where she started. But do you really think Maggie the Cat would let that happen?

## Maggie and AppearanceLet's be honest: Maggie's hot stuff. She knows how to work it too. She flaunts and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ herself in front of Brick to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ him, tells him Big Daddy has a "lech" for her, and relates the story of being pursued by a bachelor in a powder room. Brick's indifference only sharpens her desire to preen about her looks.In the first act, we watch Maggie change out of a dress ruined by the no-neck monsters. She hopes her see-through slip will entice Brick, but when it's clear it does not and will not, she gradually dresses up as the act progresses. In this way, the audience watches her choose an outfit for an important event. Her looks are a weapon that she will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in order to get what she wants. She flirts with Big Daddy in order to charm him and warm him to her cause. <http://www.shmoop.com/cat-hot-tin-roof/maggie-the-cat.html>

***Match the word to the correct definition.***

1. To dress or adorn with care.
2. To lift somebody up or something up
3. Fabric made from goat’s wool
4. Well known, famed, reputed
5. Significance, importance, weight
6. Young woman’s first official social engagement
7. Use weapon or tool
8. Tempt by offering something attractive
9. Share or interest in something, assert something
10. In a way that is biting, sharp, strong

***Match the word to the correct synonym.***

1. Intensely, eagerly
2. Lure, tempt
3. Importance
4. Grooms, fusses
5. Raises
6. Archetypal
7. Brandish
8. Wool
9. Presentation
10. Investment, prize