i ENG1304 - American Literature

4 hours

This exam consists of three questions. You must answer only ONE question.

All questions must be answered in English.

What you write will be stored automatically every 15 seconds.

You are allowed to use one English–English dictionary.

Break a leg!

Answer ONE of the following questions:

- 1. Discuss how Williams uses symbols to develop one or more characters in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Feel free to use Williams' detailed stage directions as part of your discussion.
- 2. Excerpt from Giovanni's Room:

I scarcely know how to describe that room. It became, in a way, every room I had ever been in and every room I find myself in hereafter will remind me of Giovanni's room. I did not really stay there very long [...] but it still seems to me that I spent a lifetime there. Life in that room seemed to be occurring underwater, as I say, and it is certain that I underwent a sea-change there.

[...]

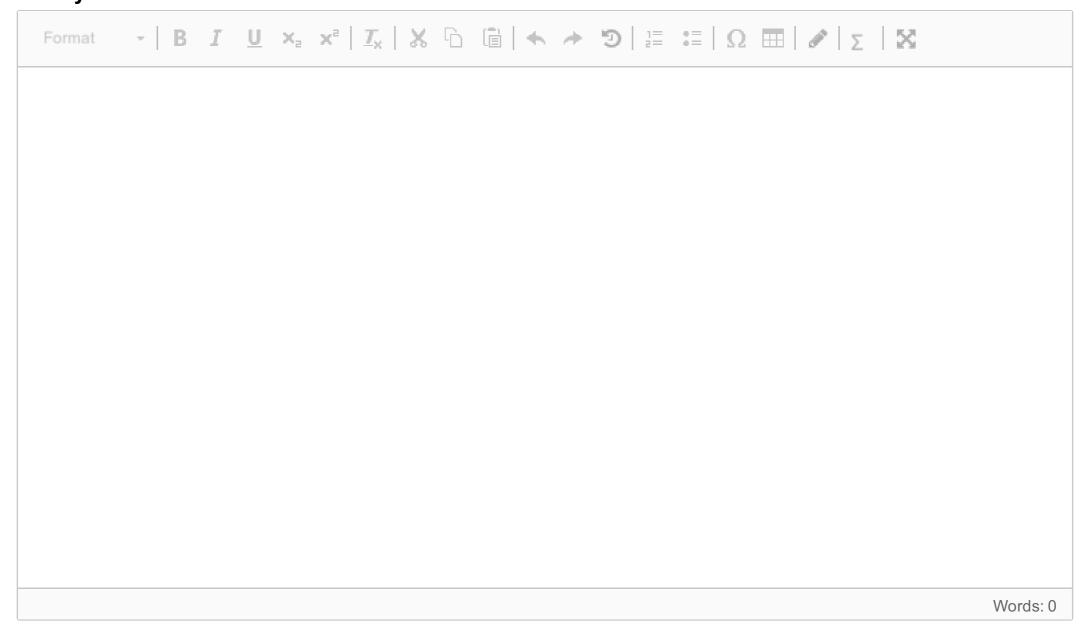
[Giovanni] had always had great plans for remodelling this room and before I arrived he had already begun. One of the walls was a dirty, streaked white where he had torn off the wallpaper. The wall facing it was destined never to be uncovered and on this wall a lady in a hoop skirt and a man in knee breeches perpetually walked together, hemmed in by roses. The wallpaper lay on the floor, in great sheets and scrolls, in dust. On the floor also, lay our dirty laundry, along with Giovanni's tools and the paint brushes and the bottles of oil and turpentine. Our suitcases teetered on top of something, so that we dreaded ever having to open them and sometimes went without some minor necessity, such as clean socks, for days. (pp.82-3, Penguin edition)

Write an essay in which you discuss how space and place function metaphorically in Baldwin's *Giovanni's Room*. You may use the above excerpt as a starting point if you wish.

- 3. Write an essay in which you discuss how the theme of morality is represented in *one or more* of the following texts:
 - a) Morrison's Sula
 - b) Jacobs' Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl
 - c) Faulkner's "A Rose for Emily"

ENG1304 1 American Literature

Write your answer here....



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