



# Arthur Miller's **DEATH OF A SALESMAN**

## Discussion/Essay Questions

1. Willy believes that to be successful in life you must be “well-liked”. Does the play support this view?
2. Arthur Miller said this play was “a love story between a father and a son”. In the end, is love gained or lost between Willy and Biff?
3. What, if anything, does Willy regret about his life?
4. Which character do you respect most?
5. Do you think Linda knows about Willy’s infidelity?
6. What do you think Arthur Miller tried to communicate about the American dream in this play?
7. When this play was first written, Arthur Miller was encouraged to change the title to something more uplifting. What other titles would fit this play?
8. With today’s understanding of mental health issues, and a greater acceptance of therapy, how would this story be different if set in 2017?
9. The presidential election of 2016 illuminated a growing anger by a class of Americans who feel they have been left behind economically. How might they relate to Death of A Salesman?
10. What status does the salesman have in this play? What do people think of salespeople today?
11. Why won’t Willy take a job from Charley?
12. How does Linda help or hurt Willy?
13. What do you think Willy should really have done with his life? What would have made him feel fulfilled?
14. What do you think it was like for Happy to be Biff’s little brother?
15. What is the purpose of Ben (Willy’s older brother) in this play? How does he change the story or what we know about Willy?
16. Was Willy’s suicide selfish or selfless?
17. How do the Lomans regard their possessions? Have their appliances and conveniences made life easier or harder?
18. The Woman is arguably the most important female in the play and yet she has no name. Why do you think this is?
19. City vs. country is debated in this play. Which does the playwright say is better?
20. What message does the play communicate about capitalism?