

## CHAPTER FOUR

### CONCLUSION

In this chapter, I will draw my conclusions after analyzing the two plays. The idea of the American Dream is reflected in both plays. The main focus of the analysis will be the protagonists' characteristics that influence the process of reaching their dream. The concept of the American Dream basically says that people who live in America can achieve any dream that they have, and that they have the hope of reaching it regardless of their race. In order to achieve the American Dream, one must be dedicated to one's goal and have the persistence to reach it. Nonetheless, after analyzing both plays, I realize that there is another important thing that possibly holds the key to achieve it.

I would like to start with the first play. The protagonist in *Death of a Salesman* is Willy Loman and the theme of the play is, "one who is dedicated to achieving one's goal but unable to control one's emotions and cannot move on from one's past may fail to achieve one's dream." Willy is a salesman who struggles to pay debts. He sees his late brother, Ben, and his father as his role models because of their success in the past. His father had invented flutes and sold them across the country and his brother had found diamonds in the jungle. After Ben tells Willy about their success, he dreams of being successful and rich.

His version of the American Dream is material wealth. He wants to become a successful salesman who is known throughout the city and he hopes to find his own “diamond” someday. Moreover, he hopes that his sons will also be successful in the future. Willy wants his sons to have a job with a good salary. However, he fails to achieve his dream at the end. Although he is dedicated, his other characteristics, which are irascible, stubborn, and in denial of reality, prevent him from achieving his dream. Willy cannot control his emotions most of the time, which ultimately costs him his job. Also, his inability to move on from his past makes him lose his focus on the future. As a result, he cannot see hope for his future; thus, he commits suicide in the end.

The second play is *A Raisin in the Sun* with Walter Lee Younger as the protagonist. The theme of the play is “one who is unable to control one’s emotions but dedicated to achieving one’s goal and focuses upon one’s future may be successful in reaching one’s dream.” Walter is a chauffeur who struggles to free his family from poverty. Walter is dedicated to do a job he despises of because he needs to feed his family. When he hears that his late father left a life insurance worth ten thousand dollars, he comes up with a plan of investing it in a liquor store and he dedicates himself to realize his plan. He believes that he can earn more income if he invests the money. Moreover, he dreams of equality because he sees being a chauffeur as a low status job and he wants to be equal with the people whom he serves. However, his inability to control his emotions is obstructs him. Walter is also depicted as an irascible and stubborn person. These characteristics make him lose his only chance of getting more income. However, by being prudent, Walter can accept and be grateful that he has achieved the material wealth he seeks for albeit in a different form.

Both protagonists have some similarities and differences. The first similarity is they both are dedicated workers. Willy Loman needs to visit other cities every day in order to work. He mostly arrives at his home late at night and it wears him out. On the other hand, Walter Lee Younger has to be a chauffeur to support his family. He despises his work and yet he still commits to perform his duty every day. Their other similarity is their version of the American Dream. Both protagonists' version of the American Dream is material wealth. Willy wants to be successful like his brother. However, he has many debts to pay and he hopes that he or his sons will be successful in the future. He believes that money is the most important thing that his family needs. Walter Lee also believes that money is crucial. He works as a chauffeur in order to fulfill his family's needs, although it is still insufficient. Another similarity they have is both of them are unable to control their emotion. Willy tends to get angry uncontrollably when things do not go well. He also thinks that his idea is the best one for everyone. Walter also has a similar issue. He gets angry when his family disagrees with his idea and he believes that his idea is the best to deal with the family's financial problem.

However, there is one difference between the protagonists. Willy Loman fails to achieve his American Dream. He sees that there is no other hope for his family because he cannot get a new job after he gets fired. Willy commits suicide in the end because he thinks his life insurance can be used to pay his family's debts. On the other hand, Walter successfully achieves his American Dream. Walter decides to live in the new house that his mother buys and he sees it as a realization of his dream. I think what causes their different fate is their individual trait and how they see their life. Willy mostly gets stuck in the past because he cannot face the reality of his life. Willy admires his late brother's idea of being successful, that is, a person has to be well-known and prepared in order to be rich. Willy can only think of his late brother's life when he thinks of success, which

is being rich. He wants his sons and himself to be as rich as his brother and he believes that being rich is the only purpose in life. He is stuck with the idea of being rich as the answer to solve his family's problems. Unfortunately, he cannot see how his family can be free from debts, unless his family receives his life insurance. On the contrary, Walter cares about his family's future. Unlike Willy, Walter does not let his past become an obstacle for him to face reality. In fact, his past guides him towards a better future. He thinks that his family, since earlier generations, has struggled to achieve happiness. He believes that his family deserves to live in a new house and start a new life in more raised position within white people vicinity. Walter's vision of the future makes him able to think of what is best for his family. He can see that his family has already achieved what he has been chasing all this time.

I believe both plays manage to reflect the struggles of working-class people to achieve their dream. The concept of the American Dream makes people think that people who live in America can achieve their dream if they are dedicated to achieve their dream. However, both of these plays express that dedication is not the most important thing in achieving the American Dream, but individual traits are what matter. It is good when people have a strong determination to achieve their dream. However, if their negative traits overwhelm them, their traits will only become obstacles for them. Moreover, one who is stuck in his past and one who always looks upon the future may have a different result. This can be seen from the cases of Willy and Walter: they both cannot control their emotions. Their inability to control their emotions prevents them from reaching their dream. Yet, Willy, who is stuck in his past, fails to achieve his dream whereas Walter, who always looks upon his future, manages to achieve his dream.

Nonetheless, such ideas may not always be true in real life. People might achieve success although they have negative traits, or dedication may be the only thing people need to achieve their dream. The ideas in both plays might be too idealistic for the contemporary world. Nonetheless, some people might learn from the ideas and realize that individual traits and how they view their own life are indeed an important part of either achieving or not achieving their dream.

