

## APPENDICES

### **Synopsis of Arthur Miller's *All My Sons***

Joe Keller, the protagonist of the play, is a middle-aged businessman. He has two sons, named Larry Keller and Chris Keller. He lives with his two sons and his wife, Kate. He is portrayed as a successful businessman who has a factory which produces aircraft engines during World War II. One day, his factory produces defective cylinder heads. He keeps shipping them to the Army Air Force and causes the deaths of twenty-one American pilots in the war. In the court, he denies his responsibility and blames the mistake on Steve Deever, his partner.

After fourteen months, Joe runs his business again and becomes a successful businessman. He does not want to be responsible for what he has done. He only thinks that success, especially material success, is needed by his family. He sees his business as the only way to make his family happy. He wants his son, Chris, to inherit his business. However, Chris does not want to inherit his father's business.

For many years, Joe hides the truth about what he has done. Then, the coming of George, Steve's son, in Joe's house reveals the truth about the case. George asks for Joe's responsibility for what he has done. However, Joe still does not admit his fault. Then, Chris, who knows the truth, is angry with Joe. He cannot forgive his father's fault. Joe does not want to be blamed by Chris since he

thinks that he does the fault because of his love for his family. In other words, he does not want to take the responsibility to society for what he has done. Chris does not agree with his father's opinion since his father has made a big mistake. Chris tries to remind him that his father should be responsible to society for what he has done.

Then, Larry's letter, which is shown by Annie to Joe, makes Joe realize his fault. Larry, Joe's son, is reported missing in his mission as a pilot in the army. When Larry knows that Joe has caused the deaths of twenty-one American pilots, he cannot stand it any longer. So, he commits suicide to substitute for his father's responsibility for what he has done. Larry's letter makes Joe admit his fault. He never realizes that his mistake causes the death of his own son, Larry. The cause of Larry's death makes Joe regret his fault. He later realizes that the deaths of the American pilots are caused by him. Then, he commits suicide to show his responsibility to society for what he has done.

### **Synopsis of Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman***

Willy Loman, the protagonist of the play, is a salesman of more than sixty years old. He has two sons, named Biff and Happy. He has worked for thirty-six years in Wagner Company. He is not a successful salesman. His family owes many debts. His entire life is filled with dreams of being a successful and rich man. He stresses the importance of success, especially material success in his life. He thinks his job as a salesman can help him to achieve the success he wants. Willy has a wrong concept of success; he thinks that popularity and personal attractiveness are the most important things to gain success.

Willy is inspired to be a salesman after he meets Dave Singleman, an eighty-four-year-old salesman, because he sees that Dave can sell his products easily. When Dave dies, many people attend his funeral. Willy thinks that Dave's profession as a salesman has made him respected. This makes Willy choose the profession of a salesman to achieve success.

Willy has very often told his sons about his false view of success that popularity and personal attractiveness are highly needed to gain success. He is proud of his son, Biff, since he thinks that Biff has both qualities. Therefore, he wants Biff to become a salesman. Actually, Biff prefers being a farmer to being a salesman.

Willy fails to work as a salesman since he cannot sell many products. Moreover, basically he is lazy. His failure to achieve success makes him frustrated. He is envious of the success of other salesmen. However, he never realizes that his failure is caused by his false view of success. When he feels frustrated, he often thinks of committing suicide. His unfulfilled dream makes him live in his own world. He imagines that he is respected and popular in society. He boasts of being well-known as a traveling salesman and ironically, his sons believe what Willy says.

Later on, Willy loses his sons' respect when they know the truth. They are angry with Willy, who has lied to them. Biff realizes that his father's false view of success ruins his life. He accepts his failure and tries to convince his father that his failure is caused by his false view of success. However, Willy does not believe him and he never realizes his fault. When Willy sees that he has lost Biff's respect, he commits suicide to make Biff respect him. He thinks that Biff will

respect him again when Biff sees that his funeral is attended by lots of people. Ironically, only his family and Charley attend his funeral. Moreover, he thinks his death insurance, which amounts to \$20,000, can help Biff to achieve success. Until the end of his life, Willy still sticks to his false view of success.

### **Biography of Arthur Miller**

Arthur Miller was born in Manhattan, New York City in 1915. He graduated from high school in Brooklyn and studied journalism at the University of Michigan. He received the Bachelor of Arts in 1938, the Hopwood Award and the Theater Guild Bureau of New Plays for *They Too Arise*. Then, he joined the Federal Theater Project.

In 1947, *All My Sons* was produced; it won the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award and the Donaldson Award. His best-known play, *Death of a Salesman* won the Pulitzer Prize, the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award, the Antoinette Perry Award, the American Newspaper Guild Award, the Theater Club Award and the Donaldson Award.

In 1956, Miller received an honorary degree from the University of Michigan. He elected to The National Institute of Arts and Letters in 1958. In 1959, he won the Gold Medal for Drama from The National Institute of Arts and Letters.

He was elected as president of P.E.N. (Poet, Essayists, and Novelists) in 1965 which was an international literary organization. His other works; *A Memory of Two Mondays*, *A View from the Bridge*, *The Misfits*, and *I Don't Need You Any More* also won many awards.