

APPENDICES

1.1. Synopsis of Arthur Miller's All My Sons

Joe Keller, the protagonist of All My Sons, is a factory owner who lives with his wife and son named Chris. Keller has two sons but the younger one is reported missing. Kate, Keller's wife, believes that his son, Larry, is still alive. She never gives up convincing herself and her family that Larry will come back one day. Later, Ann Deever, Larry's girlfriend, comes from New York to visit the Kellers. Chris is very anxious about Ann's coming to their house because he loves Ann and wants to propose her.

When Chris tells his mother that he wants to marry Ann, she disagrees with him because Ann is Larry's girlfriend and Larry will come home. The problem becomes intense when George Deever, Ann's brother, calls Ann after he visits his father in jail. George tells her that he wants to come to the Kellers. Keller never realizes that George's visit is to reveal his past mistake. When George arrives and hears that Ann loves and wants to marry Chris, he disagrees. He finally reveals the truth that Keller is the one to blame for war plane accidents. He also explains that Steve Deever is innocent because it is Keller that tells Steve to sell faulty plane parts to the army.

At that time, Keller pretends that he is sick and he asks Steve, his partner, to ship the faulty plane parts. At first, Steve refuses because he knows the consequences, but he cannot do anything because he is only Keller's subordinate. His action leads to the deaths of 21 young pilots. Keller manages to defend himself and blame Steve for the crime. He succeeds in concealing his sin for three years. Chris, who finally knows the truth, cannot believe that his father is a murderer. He even blames his father for Larry's missing in the mission. He thinks that his father is responsible for the death of Larry. Kate is also angry with Keller because he has caused the death of his own son.

After he finds out that his father is an unscrupulous man, Chris decides to leave home. He feels ashamed because he knows that Ann will not forgive his family, especially his father, who sends her father into prison. Keller insists that what he has done is for the sake of his family, especially for Chris. When Chris refuses to forgive his action, Keller commits suicide because he feels guilty for the deaths of Larry and other pilots whom he also regards as his sons.

1.2. Synopsis of Arthur Miller's Death of a Salesman

The protagonist of Death of a Salesman, Willy Loman, is an old travelling salesman. Willy can no longer earn enough money for paying debts. He feels distressed because he thinks that his two sons, especially his eldest son, Biff, is not successful although he is already thirty-four years old. Realizing that he cannot travel any more, Willy tries to instill his concept of success to Biff.

According to Willy, appearance and personality determine a person's

success in life. He believes that Biff, who is attractive, can be a great person. He wants Biff to work in the business field, especially as a salesman. It is a pity that Biff does not want to be a businessman; he prefers to work on the farm, which he regards as a place where he can find real happiness. When Willy fails to encourage Biff to be a salesman, he feels very desperate. Linda, Willy's wife, tells Biff that Willy loves him and he wants Biff to be a great man. Linda also tells Biff that Willy has tried to kill himself several times but failed.

Biff pities his father and decides to obey him. He sees Bill Oliver, whom he used to work with before. Unfortunately, Oliver does not want to see Biff because of Biff's past mistake.

Biff honestly admits that Oliver does not want to hire him but Willy does not believe him. When Biff says that he used to be a shipping clerk, Willy insists that Biff used to be a salesman instead of a shipping clerk.

Biff decides to leave home to build his own future because he knows that he cannot fulfill his father's demand. Besides, he is sure that his future lies on the farm. Since Willy has been dismissed and because he has failed in forcing Biff to become a salesman, Willy ends his life by crashing his own car. Willy commits suicide because he wants Biff to inherit the insurance money to start a new life. Tragically, Biff is not interested in the money and he wants to work on the farm instead of working as a salesman.

1.3. Biography

Arthur Miller was born in October 1915 in New York City. His father was ladies-wear manufacturer who went bankrupt during the economic crisis in 1930s. As a young man who underwent the Great Depression, 'Miller was shaped by the poverty that surrounded him' <http://www.gradesaver.com/ClassicNotes/Authors/about_arthur_miller.html>.

After graduating from high school, he worked in a warehouse in order to earn enough money to attend the University of Michigan, where he began to write plays.

Miller gained his first success when he wrote Focus (1945), a novel about anti-Semitism, but it was All My Sons (1947) that made him well-known as a distinguished playwright. All My Sons is a play about a manufacturer of faulty plane parts. Death of a Salesman, which he wrote in 1949, secured his reputation as an American foremost playwright. The protagonist of the play, Willy Loman, is portrayed as a victim of his own dream of success. Miller won a Tony Award and a Pulitzer Prize for Death of a Salesman.

In 1956, Miller married actress Marilyn Monroe and they divorced in 1961 before Monroe's death in the same year. The Misfits is a film based on an original screenplay written by Miller. After divorcing Monroe, Miller married Ingeborg Morath and they got a son and a daughter.

Miller also wrote A Memory of Two Mondays and A View from the Bridge; both were staged in 1955. His other works include After the Fall (1964), a play based on his marriage to Monroe and The Price (1967). In 1977, Miller wrote

The Archbishop's Ceiling (1977) and three years later, The American Clock. His other works include the plays The Ride Down Mt Morgan (1991), The Last Yankee (1933) and Broken Glass (1993), which won the Olivier Award for the Best Play.

In 1992, Miller got Spain's prestigious de Asturias Prize for Literature. He was the first American who received such an honourable award for literature. Miller died in his home at Roxbury, Connecticut, in February, 2005 because of heart failure.