



1. What specific things do you learn about Willy Loman and his wife, Linda, in their opening conversation? (Give your analysis range: for instance, his job, his general outlook, his relationship with his wife, children, etc.)
2. What do you learn about Biff and Happy from their conversation in the upstairs bedroom? How, for instance, how are they different? Do they have any of the same attitudes or values? What is their relationship with their parents?
3. The first segment of memory intrudes into Biff's and Happy's bedroom conversation. What trigger's Willy's memory trip back into the past? What other devices does Miller use to initiate and sustain the interplay of time past and time present in this scene? Define the specific things you learn about Biff, Happy, Linda, Willy and their earlier relationships from the conversations in this first memory segment.
4. As the play moves forward, different prompts move the play in and out of the present reality. Construct a brief explanation of what each of the following references contribute to the characterization and the narrative development of the play as it unfolds by the end of Act I:
 - the refrigerator and Chevrolet
 - a Woman's laughter
 - football
 - Willy's "memory" conversation with Bernard
 - Happy's and Charley's conversations with Willy
 - the "memory" visit of Ben
 - the kitchen conversation between Linda, Happy, and Biff
 - the reference to Bill Oliver
5. Act II builds on disclosures about several situations and references set up in Act I. Construct a brief, but precise explanation of how Miller develops the following elements of the play as he moves toward his closing. Be sure to include non-linear devices in your analysis.
 - the depth and desperation of Willy's financial distress
 - the "truth" about Biff 's encounter with Bill Oliver
 - the revelation of what incident had destroyed Biff's relationship with his father
 - the significance of the rubber hose
6. Construct a one-sentence statement of what you perceive to be the primary theme of the play.
7. Consider the term "tragic hero". Have you encountered the term before in your study of literature? Explain.

Make a jot list of some specific words or phrases you would use to profile your personal idea of a tragic hero.

In your perception, is Willy Loman a tragic hero? Why? Why not? Make another jot list of words and phrases that reflect your conclusion about Willy as a "tragic hero." Be prepared to explain your position to your peers, supported with specific references from the text of the play.