

Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman*: A Tragedy of a Common Man

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Abstract

Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* delineates a tragedy of a common man in the twentieth-century American society. Willy Loman, the protagonist of the play, is a believer of the American dream of success. His fidelity to the great dream of success constitutes the very heart of the play. However, championing these ideals of success, Willy is driven to madness and despair by his inability to achieve success economically in a society that seems to guarantee success. In this paper, what I am attempting to explore is the reasons why Arthur Miller arranges such an ending. How does Arthur Miller present Willy's dream of success and his nightmare of defeat? And what exactly is Arthur Miller's attitude toward Willy and his society? Thus I am inquiring into the immense gap between the American dream of success and the American reality.

Key Words: Arthur Miller, *Death of a Salesman*, the dream of success, a tragedy of a common man