

Reflection essay on death of a salesman

[Literature](#), [Russian Literature](#)



" The main dangers in this life are the people who want to change everything -- or nothing. " -- Lady Nancy Astor. The quote states that it can be dangerous when an individual wants to change nothing about themselves of their life or everything. An individual's loss of identity and incapability to change within himself and society can be very dangerous. The play *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller is a collaboration of memories, dreams, confrontation and arguments with one self. When an individual is in denial of his own life or others and refuses to accept change, it harms not only them but their family as well.

Similarly, when one is unable to make up their mind, they are very contradictory and unsure of their own life. Also, for one to be successful their mind needs to be set and they must adjust themselves and should be familiar with order versus disorder. In the play, every single member of the Loman family is in denial or preserves a continuous cycle of denial for others. Willy Loman, the man and father of the family cannot accept the fact that he is a mediocre salesman. Instead Willy has a vision of his own American dream of success even if he has to deny reality in order to accomplish it.

Throughout the play, Willy does not realize that he is not a well-known and successful salesman, and he lives in past memories and events of his life which he is perceived as successful. For example, Willy's favourite memory of the past is Biff's last football game because Biff swears that he will make a touchdown just for him. This particular scene of the past in the play, Willy is excited and cannot wait to tell his buyers and friends. He considers himself famous and successful as a result of his son's pride.

Willy's two sons, Biff and Happy, acquire Willy's habit of denying or manipulating reality with time and practice it all of their lives. It is not until near the end of the play that Biff admits he has been a "phony" too, just like Willy and he is not the person he thinks he is or his father thinks he is. Linda, the mother in the family is the one character who realizes that her family lives in denial. Nevertheless, she goes along with all of Willy's fantasies and "phony" dreams in order to uphold his fragile mind.

Contradiction plays an important part throughout the play as Willy's mind is filled with inconsistencies and he contradicts himself often. From the very start, Willy reveals this habit of his. He labels his son Biff as a "lazy bum" but then a mere second later in his dialogue he contradicts himself when he says, "And such a hard worker. There's one thing about Biff — he's not lazy." Willy's inconsistent mind is the result of his incapability to accept reality and re-create the past as an excuse to escape the present.

For example, Willy cannot accept that Biff no longer respects him because of Willy's affair. Rather than admit that their relationship with each other took wrong paths and they should try their best to make it better, Willy goes into the past to a previous time in his life when Biff had respect for him and admired him. As the play goes further on, Willy removes himself more and more from the present and puts himself in the past he has too many problems to deal with. Similarly, order versus disorder also plays a major theme in the play and results from Willy's retreats into the past.

Every time Willy lives in the past, he does so to deny and forget the present, especially if he is not being able to accept the present at all. Throughout the

play, Willy spends more and more time in the past as to retain order in his life. The more disastrous the reality, the more necessary it is for Willy to change it, even if it means for him to live in the past. For example, immediately after Howard fires Willy, Ben appears, and Willy says " nothing's working out. I don't know what to do. " Ben quickly changes the topic of the conversation to Alaska and offers Willy a job.

Linda appears as well and persuades Willy that he should stay in sales, just like his role model, Dave Singleman. Willy's confidence quickly recovers, and he is sure that he made the right decision by turning down Ben's offer to go to Alaska as he is certain he will be a success like Singleman. Therefore, distracting Willy from the reality of losing his job. Denial, contradiction, and the journey of order versus disorder contain the play, Death of a Salesman. Order versus disorder in the play gives Willy a chance to get away from himself and sense of reality.

Similarly, Willy contradicts himself throughout the play to distract himself from reality as he does not realize it. Thirdly, Willy lives in denial of his own life as he only wishes to accomplish the American Dream. Willy's situation is not different: Everyone makes mistakes that change their relationship with the people they love and when all of their attempts to fix their mistake fail, they give it a one final chance to correct the mistake. Bibliography: " death of a salesman" - arthur miller