

Death of a salesman

Literature



“ Death Of A Salesman” is a tragedy with main character Willy Loman, a old salesman whose stubborn adherence to perception based principles on success is shown to have grossly affected the success of his family and the subsequent perceptions in life of his two children. Willy’s character is well presented as a pathetic old man with a growing mental illness who is fired from his low paying job by a man young enough to be his son and now relies on loans from his next-door-neighbor Charley in whom he harbors jealousy and contempt for being more successful.

Several other scenes make Willy even more wretched, such as his pride in not taking a job that Charley offers him, scenes about his friends and customers not remembering him which culminates to a scant attendance at his funeral. Linda, Willy’s wife was also nicely portrayed as the typical American wife in the 40s.

Submissive to her husband despite her more practicable principles which are shown in her conversations with their children when Willy wasn’t in the scene, Linda chooses to seem stupid when around her husband, who treats her like he was a lot smarter than her and doesn’t pay heed to what she tells him. Linda’s pitfall as portrayed in the play was her inability to assert herself in order to save her family because of her love for her husband in connection of the social norms at the time. This seems to have substantial feminist value.

Willy’s two sons are portrayed to have different views about their father upon the conclusion of the play, although both of them initially agreed with their father’s principles. After Willy’s final attempt to prove his skewed vision of the American Dream by killing himself for insurance money and public

recognition at his funeral, his eldest son Biff renounces his father's ideals while the younger son, Happy celebrates them and this concludes an enlightened ending for one and a continuance of the pathetic cycle for the other.