

Death of a Salesman – Willy Loman

- Willy Loman
a low man = a simple, ordinary man (a telling name!)
- a salesman “carrying two large sample cases” (5)
- “past sixty years of age [...] dressed quietly” (5)
- “his exhaustion is apparent” (5)
- “I’m tired to the death” (6)
He is mentally and physically exhausted.
- “I suddenly couldn’t drive any more” (6)
- “I can’t seem to – keep my mind to it.” (6)
He can’t concentrate on what he is doing.
- “These goddam arch supports are killing me.” (7)
He is physically exhausted.
- “I opened the windshield” (7)
- “No the windshields don’t open on the new cars.” (11)
He contradicts himself.
- “I’m dreamin’ again” (7)
- “I have such thoughts, I have such strange thoughts” (7)
He often is absent-minded and daydreaming.
- “Figure it out. Work a lifetime to pay off a house. You finally own it, and there’s nobody to live in it.” (8)
- “When the hell did I lose my temper?” (8)
He easily loses his temper.
- “Biff is a lazy bum! [...] “Biff – he’s not lazy.” (9)
He contradicts himself.
- “I don’t want a change!” (9)
- “More and more I think of those days” (10)
- “Nineteen twenty-eight ... when I had that red Chevy [...] I coulda sworn I was driving that Chevy today.” (11)
He dreams of the past.
- “Something’s – happening to him. He – talks to himself.” (13)
- “There’s one or two things depressing him.” (13)
- “I never have to wait in line to see a buyer. ‘Willy Loman is here!’ That’s all they have to know, and I go right through.” (22)
- “people don’t seem to take to me [...] They seem to laugh at me. [...] they just pass me by. I’m not noticed.” (25)
He contradicts himself.

- “Chevrolet, Linda, is the greatest car ever built.” (23)
- “That goddam Chevrolet, they ought to prohibit the manufacture of that car!” (24)
- He contradicts himself.*
- “if business don’t pick up I don’t know what I’m gonna do!” (24)
- “Willy Loman never made a lot of money” (39)
- “a terrible thing is happening to him” (39)
- “The man is exhausted.” (40)
- “He works for a company thirty-six years [...], and now in his old age they take his salary away. (40)
- “he has to go to Charley and borrow fifty dollars a week and pretend to [Linda] it’s his pay” (40)
- “Someday I’ll have my own business, and I’ll never have to leave home any more.” (20)
- Willy’s dream*
- Biff: “I know he’s a fake” (41)
- “He’s dying [...] He’s been trying to kill himself.” (41)
- “he put his whole life into you and you’ve turned your backs on him.” (42)