

The Loman Family

On Social Media

SAMPLE

Section 1 – Platform Choices

Willy Loman

The main character in the play “Death of a Salesman” by Arthur Miller is Willy Loman. Willy is a man who as he has gotten older, has been experiencing more frequent delusions and losing himself in his past. Being a traveling salesman at the age of sixty years old has taken a toll on Willy Loman. He has become exhausted. Willy has two children named Biff and Happy who have contributed to his mental instability. If Willy Loman used any social media platform, it would be Facebook. Facebook is popular among the older community and is used to share thoughts, beliefs, photographs, and anything that is on the user’s mind through a post on your “Timeline”. Willy Loman seems like the kind of person to use Facebook, because it is a way of getting people to notice you. Willy did not have many friends. In fact Willy admitted to Charley that he was his actual only friend. Facebook would pose as a way to share Willy’s memories with the world and get him introduced to new people.

Biff Loman

Biff Loman is Willy Loman’s oldest son. Biff sees himself as a failure, a lost cause, and a boy who is amounting to nothing. When Biff was in high school, he was very involved in Football. He was supposed to get a scholarship, and continue on to live the American dream. If Biff Loman had access to social media back when he was in high school, he would most likely have used the platform Instagram. Instagram is used for sharing photos with descriptions underneath the photo. These photos could be about anything and are categorized with “hashtags” at the end of the description. People upload photos and viewers have the option of “liking” a photo by pressing on a little red heart. The reasons as to why Biff would most likely have used

Instagram are that being a football player, Biff was probably well liked, if not admired by some. Biff could have posted pictures of himself and the football team.

Happy Loman

Happy Loman is Willy Loman's youngest son. Happy is viewed as a young, dumb guy who is absolutely obsessed with women, and his self-image. Throughout the play, Happy is viewed as a one dimensional character who enjoys feeding his sex drive and worrying mostly about himself. Without a doubt, Happy would most likely have used the social media platform Snapchat. Snapchat is a platform where users upload videos of themselves, their lives, their possessions, and anything that the user feels like sharing with the open world. The reason why Snapchat would be a perfect social media platform for Happy is because people who are obsessed with their personal image want the world to notice them. A guy such as Happy, would upload videos of himself with beautiful women, nice cars, and even boast about his position at work. Snapchat would serve its purpose for a guy like Happy.

Linda Loman

Linda Loman is Willy's stay at home wife. She is viewed as a strong, emotional woman who cannot bear to watch her husband Willy get lost in his memories. She urges Happy and Biff to say to Willy things that what would make him happy. She truly cares about her husband. Linda, however sees accomplishing and achieving materialistic things as signs of success (such as paying off the mortgage). Being a stay at home mother, Linda has a lot of time on her hands. Similarly to Willy, Linda would most likely have used the social media platform Facebook. Staying home most of the day must get lonely, and Linda is not the type of woman to keep feelings bottled up. If Linda used Facebook, she would be able to share her thoughts, go on rants,

and even seek people's advice using Facebook. Linda's "friends" on Facebook would be able to show her signs of compassion.

Section 2 – Character Journeys

Throughout the play "Death of a Salesman" by Arthur Miller, the main character Willy Loman is suffering from mental instabilities. In the beginning of the play Willy says to his wife Linda, "I was driving along, you understand? And I was fine. I was even observing the scenery. You can imagine, me looking at scenery, on the road every week of my life. But it's so beautiful up there, Linda, the trees are so thick, and the sun is warm. I opened the windshield and just let the warm air bathe over me. And then all of a sudden I'm goin' off the road! I'm tellin' ya, I absolutely forgot I was driving. If I'd've gone the other way over the white line I might've killed somebody. So I went on again — and five minutes later I'm dreamin' again, and I nearly... (He presses two fingers against his eyes.) I have such thoughts, I have such strange thoughts." (6)

Willy Loman is a traveling salesman who has become exhausted physically and mentally. He constantly falls into his memories. Memories of his oldest son Biff in high school playing football. Willy does not understand why Biff has not become successful yet. Deeper into the play Willy has a talk with Bernard (Biff's old friend from high school) who asks Willy why Biff did not attend summer school after he flunked his math exam. Willy could not tell him because he knew that it was his fault. Biff caught Willy with his mistress and it really disturbed Biff emotionally. In that scene Willy asks Bernard's father Charley "And you never told him what to do, did you? You never took any interest in him?" (69) Willy asks Charley this because Bernard was going to argue a case in front of the Supreme Court. Willy is astonished, pained, and happy for Bernard. Willy feels pained because in his mind he always believed that being well liked was the most important thing for a person. In high school Bernard was not well liked, and Biff was.

Biff however ended up lost and unsuccessful, while Bernard is an important person in the world. Closer to the end of the play, Biff has an epiphany and realized that he was being held back in life because of his father's image of him. Biff broke down crying and hugging his father. This gesture was very sentimental to Willy, so much that Willy said "Loves me. Always loved me. Isn't that a remarkable thing? Ben, he'll worship me for it!" (100) Having heard his son admit his love for him after catching him with a mistress years ago really filled Willy with a sense of peace before his death.

Throughout the play, Willy's loving wife Linda never failed to show compassion and love to her husband. Linda constantly worries about the relationship between Biff and Willy. In the beginning of the play Linda states to Willy "He was crestfallen, Willy. You know how he admires you. I think if he finds himself, then you'll both be happier and not fight any more." (7) Linda here expresses her care for Biff and Willy. She wants the both of them to be on good terms. Linda has some faith that things will turn out okay between Willy and Biff. Deeper into the play after the restaurant scene where Happy and Biff leave Willy alone stuck in his memories. The two leave the restaurant with women while their father is left alone in the bathroom. When the Biff and Happy return home, Linda is furious at them. She yells "Did you have to go to your women tonight? You and your lousy rotten whores!" (91) Linda is directing this towards Happy, but she appalled at both of her sons that they would leave Willy at the restaurant. Throughout the play Linda is becoming more agitated at her sons. She even goes as far as telling Biff to leave and never come back. Her husband's health means that much to her. After Willy's death Linda says to his grave "Forgive me, dear. I can't cry. I don't know what it is, I can't cry. I don't understand it. Why did you ever do that? Help me Willy, I can't cry. It seems to me that you're just on another trip. I keep expecting you. Willy, dear, I can't cry. Why

did you do it? I search and search and I search, and I can't understand it, Willy. I made the last payment on the house today. Today, dear. And there'll be nobody home. We're free and clear. We're free. We're free... We're free..." (104) Linda is a woman who views materialistic accomplishments such as paying off the mortgage as signs of success and happiness. In reality she does not try to understand on a deeper level what might have caused Willy and Biff so much pain.

Biff is Willy's oldest son and he is spiritually lost. In high school Biff was well liked, played football, and even had the opportunity to attend a university. Catching Willy with a mistress in Boston made Biff devastated at his father and threw him out of his mindset of taking a math course he failed and attending a university. In the beginning of the play, Biff says to Happy "Well, I spent six or seven years after high school trying to work myself up. Shipping clerk, salesman, business of one kind or another. And it's a measly manner of existence. To get on that subway on the hot mornings in summer. To devote your whole life to keeping stock, or making phone calls, or selling or buying. To suffer fifty weeks of the year for the sake of a two week vacation, when all you really desire is to be outdoors, with your shirt off. And always to have to get ahead of the next fella. And still — that's how you build a future." (12) Following his father's footsteps of becoming a salesman was not what Biff wanted to do. After high school Biff worked different jobs, but still haven't found himself. Willy's image for Biff has been tormenting him. Biff says to Willy "Will you let me go, for Christ's sake? Will you take that phony dream and burn it before something happens? I'll go in the morning. Put him — put him to bed." (99) Breaking down in front of his father and letting out those words changed the atmosphere of the play. Biff finally telling Willy how he feels. Following Willy's death, Biff says at the funeral "There were a lot of nice days. When he'd come home from a trip; or on

Sundays, making the stoop; finishing the cellar; putting on the new porch; when he built the extra bathroom; and put up the garage. You know something, Charley, there's more of him in that front stoop than in all the sales he ever made.”(103) This statement is very important in the play because Biff acknowledges the things his father has done around the house. It is important that the last moments between Biff and Willy were moments of making peace.

Lastly there is Willy's youngest son Happy. Happy did not develop as a character at all throughout the play. One of the first things we learn about Happy is that he is a “player”. This can be depicted from his lines where Happy says “Yeah, that was my first time — I think. Boy, there was a pig. You taught me everything I know about women. Don't forget that.” (11) Regarding to a women as a pig is said by “men” who do not value women. Not only does Happy disrespect women out of the family, he disrespects his own mother when he told her “Why? He had a swell time with us. Listen, when I desert him I hope I don't outlive the day!” (91) Happy lied right to Linda's face because him and Biff really did desert Willy alone in the restaurant bathroom! Happy may be “successful” in terms of having a job, making money, being popular, but he lacks traits that make a good person. Happy does not improve in any positive way throughout “Death of a Salesman”. At his father's funeral happy proclaims to the family “All right, boy. I'm gonna show you and everybody else that Willy Loman did not die in vain. He had a good dream. It's the only dream you can have — to come out number-one man. He fought it out here, and this is where I'm gonna win it for him.” (104) Throughout the play, Happy lies, disrespects, and only really worries about himself. For him to say this at Willy's funeral is an insult to Willy. Where was Happy when Willy was breaking down mentally? He did not offer him any support. He left Willy for a couple of girls. Biff in the end at least made amends.

Section 3 – The Lomans on Social Media

Willy Loman - Facebook

1)

My oldest boy Biff made it on to the school football team! What a glorious day!

That boy is not lazy I tell all of you! He has the Loman spirit in him! I am so glad that boy is well liked.

(Willy uploads a photograph of Biff and his football team standing on the field with their helmets under their arms and smiles on their faces)

2)

On the road again! Time to complete my third sale this week. What a difficult month it has been, the constant driving, the long nights on the road, I sometimes think that I may be working too hard. What am I saying? I am a salesman! I was born a salesman! If only my son Biff could amount to something by now, I would have less to think about during my drive home.

3)

Just finished putting in the new ceiling in the dining room! I did it with my own two hands and had no one to help me. Some men would just hire a carpenter to do it for them, however I believe that if a man does not know how to work with tools, he is not really a man.

(Willy uploads a photograph of the new ceiling he installed)

Biff Loman – Instagram

1)

(Biff uploads a photograph of him wearing the football uniform and his father Willy beside him. Willy looks very proud of Biff. In the background Happy is kissing a strange girl.)

#Varsity #Quarterback

2)

(Biff uploads a photograph of his math homework. Hoping someone would send him back the answers to his homework.)

#HelpMe #HateMath #PleaseHelp

3)

(Biff uploads a photograph of him burning a pair of shoes with his university logo on them. Biff looks very depressed, confused, and angry in the photo.)

#Lost #Fake

Happy Loman – Snapchat

1)

(Happy uploads a video of himself at his place of work. He is boasting about how he will be assistant buyer and how if his viewers need any help with sales, they should come to him. He is a professional.)

2)

(Happy uploads a video of a huge beautiful farm out west. In the video it shows Happy looking at the farm for a moment, and then him driving away.)

3)

(Happy uploads a video of himself at a restaurant with a group of women. He goes around the table giving each woman a compliment, kissing their hand, and moving on to the next one. The video also shows Willy sitting at a different table talking to himself.)

1)

Poor Willy has been on the road for such a long time. All I could do is worry about him and hope he gets home safe. Even though I will be filled with joy when he returns, I am nervous about him reacting to our refrigerator breaking again. Money does not come easily to the Lomans, my husband has to work very hard. When he comes home I will ask him to request from Howard that he work closer to home.

2)

I thought I raised my boys to respectful, and loving men. Today I am just astonished with how they behaved. My poor Willy is sick and those two boys just left him alone at a restaurant bathroom! How could they? They only have one father and mother. All the mothers out there please help me. What should I do with sons? Do your children behave this way?

3)

My poor Willy is getting worse by the day. Last night he barely slept. He walked around our home for several hours talking to himself and calling out to his older brother Ben who is no longer around. I thought that he would feel better by the morning, but I was wrong. He went to our garden and started planting seeds. Nothing will grow I told him, but he didn't hear me it seemed. I am so worried about him. Does anyone on here feel my pain?

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