

STUDENT NAME

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The Lomans on Social Media

Platform Choices

As a millennial in the 21st century, social media is present in my everyday life. Twitter, Tumblr, Instagram and Facebook are few of the many social networking sites available to fit any individuals social and/or creative needs. Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, and Facebook are the social media sites that fit the characters in the play *Death of a Salesman*, by Arthur Miller.

Twitter is a social media platform that allows people to network and share current events. Users communicate with each other using short messages known in the social world as “tweets”. Tweets are restricted to 280 characters or fewer. Twitter is a simple social network to use and users can retweet or favorite what you tweet. This helps the user become popular on Twitter as their following grows. Users enjoy using Twitter because they have access to anyone in the world and can tweet any organization or persons at their free will within a matter of seconds. Willy Loman would be a user of Twitter. Willy Loman views himself as an important person of society. He believes that to succeed, one has to be well liked. Willy loves to talk and voice his opinions especially when it comes to change. He is prideful and fails to admit to his failures. Willy would rather recall old memories than to face the current state of his relationship with his family and those around him. Willy would use twitter because it would allow him to tweet all of

his opinions as well as gain validation from other users who retweet or like his thoughts. Twitter would allow Willy to about his successes all day long whether they are real or not. Willy would use Twitter as an outlet from his real life.

Instagram is a social media platform designed to upload and share videos and photos from your smartphone. Every user on Instagram has a profile where their photos or videos are posted. These photos and videos are shared onto a feed where your “followers” can like or comment on your post. Followers are the people who want to see your post and follow your profile. When the users who follow you post, it will also appear on your feed if you decide to follow them in return. If a user doesn’t want to see what another user is posting, the user simply unfollows the person. An Instagram profile can be private so it is only shared with those you choose or public to anyone. Users like Instagram because it allows people to have an outlet away from who they are. A lot of Instagram users post the life they wish they lived instead of the reality. Linda Loman would be an Instagram user. Linda is a housewife. She tends to the needs of her husband as soon as he gets home. She tends to the needs of her children and the needs of the household when Willy is away at work. It seems as though Linda never holds any power and only lives for Willy. She acts as though she doesn’t know what is going in with Willy for the sake of his mental health. In the end we see that Linda is the glue of the family. Linda would use Instagram because it would allow her to entertain herself apart from just being a housewife. Linda would use Instagram to express herself since Willy doesn’t really pays much attention to what she has to say. She would post pictures of the cheese she bought of the day, or what stockings she’s hoping to save up for. She would post pictures of Willy and her children. Linda would be the Instagram user that posts quotes relating to what she can’t say as a woman in those times.

Snapchat is a social network where users can message, post pictures, and send quick pictures and videos that are timed before they disappear. Snapchat also has links to news content and online magazine that users can utilize. Snapchat has now incorporated text chats and video calls into their app. Users like Snapchat because it has filters that are fun to use and send to your friends. The filters change weekly and also coordinate with the holidays and seasons. Also, it's easy to send a quick picture or video that you never want someone to see again. Happy would love Snapchat. Happy is very goofy and childlike. He is also very pretentious and loves money. Happy would be the user to send girls silly pictures or ask for pictures since he is known as a womanizer. Happy would definitely use the filters on Snapchat when he makes videos. He would be the user he posts videos of material items and money that last 24 hours on Snapchat then disappear.

Facebook is one of the OG (original) social networking platforms. Social media wouldn't be what it is today without Facebook. On Facebook, users can live stream videos, instant chat, message other users, play games and share photos, videos, and links to news content. Users can share with family and friends or they can make their profile public so that anyone can see their content. Users like Facebook because it is easy to keep in touch with older family members since the younger generations don't use Facebook as much as the other platforms. Facebook allows users to easily maintain and build connections. Biff Loman doesn't appear to be someone who would be steadily active on social media which is why he would be a Facebook user. Compared to the other platforms mentioned, Facebook is less about being liked or followed but more about the content one has to post. Biff is in a mode of self-discovery. He wants to figure out who he is and what he wants. He is ready to look in the mirror and see the Biff he knows, not the Biff that Willy wants to believe he is. Biff is done trying to be what others want him to be. Biff would

sporadically post his honest thoughts on Facebook. Biff would post links to self-discovery videos. He would post thoughts about the farm life. Biff would also go on Facebook to check up on old friends and see how they turned out compared to him.

Social networking sites are very prevalent in today's society. It is rare to meet someone who has never used or doesn't use some form of social media. If *Death of a Salesman*, by Arthur Miller was written in the 21st Century, the Lomans would probably have social media. Willy would choose Twitter, Linda would choose Instagram, Happy would choose Snapchat and Biff would choose Facebook.

Character Journey

Willy Loman

Initially the reader isn't aware that Willy is suicidal. It's evident that something is mentally wrong because Willy continues to confuse flashbacks with reality throughout the play *Death of a Salesman*. In the beginning of the play, Willy talks to Linda about the scenery before one of his car "accidents". Arthur Miller writes "I have such thoughts, I have such strange thoughts" which is what Willy says to Linda on page 5. After reading the play the reader notices that this is foreshadowing of Willy's suicidal tendencies.

Throughout the play the reader notices that Willy is someone who craves attention and he believes that being well liked is the key to success. Willy has an older brother named Ben who he constantly refers to. Ben became rich by the age of 21 when he discovered a diamond mine in Africa. Ben stands for everything that Willy equates to success. Willy regrets not taking Ben's offer for a job in Alaska. Since Willy feels like a failure he continues to relive the visit that he had with Ben. On page 50, Willy flashes back to when Ben came to offer him the job in Alaska. Linda discourages Willy from taking the offer. Ben tells Willy, "There's a new continent at your

doorstep, William. You could walk out rich. Rich!” (Miller 51). Willy tells Ben, “We’ll do it here, Ben! You hear me? We’re gonna do it here!” (Miller 51). Willy believed that he could become rich without taking Bens’ offer because he was well liked. Willy in reality is now fired from a company he worked hard to build and feels as though he is a failure. The reader realizes this is the reason why Willy wants to kill himself.

Towards the end of the play the reader realizes why Willy and Biff have an awkward relationship. Willy contradicts himself a lot when it comes to Biff. One minute he’s praising Biff, the other he’s speaking down on Biff. Willy seems to only flashback to memories that he is fond of. He continues to flashback to when Biff and Happy were teenagers in high school. Biff and Happy always looked up to their father and viewed him as a successful person. He taught them that being well-liked was the key to success. However, Biff finds out that his father is having an affair which then causes a downward spiral in Biffs life. Willy subconsciously ignores that he had an affair. He pretends that Biff is more successful than in reality. Willy is in denial and Biff just wants Willy to be honest with who they have become. They are regular men who didn’t do anything amazing. Biff says “Pop! I’m a dime a dozen, and so are you!” (Miller 80). Willy then says “I am not a dime a dozen! I am Willy Loman, and you are Biff Loman!” (Miller 80). In the end Willy faces the truth and because the truth is unbearable to handle, he commits suicide. Willy thought this was the best thing to do for his family because of his life insurance but unfortunately suicide breaks the policy. These scenes show how pride is the “death of a salesman”. Willy is so prideful that he refuses to take help from others which initially leads to his downfall. Pride is a universal theme because a lot of people allow pride to control how they handle situations.

Linda Loman

In the beginning of the play *Death of a Salesman*, Linda appears to be helpless and in denial. From the moment that her husband walks in she tending to his every need. Linda even takes Willy's shoes off. It is evident that Willy is having mental problems but she doesn't ever address it. She never wants to upset Willy and continues to make excuses for his erratic behavior. When Willy mentions that he couldn't drive without going off the shoulder, Linda blames it on the car's steering. Linda also blames it on his glasses, then she says "But you didn't rest your mind. Your mind is overactive, and the mind is what counts, dear." (Miller 4). She also blames it on his job for making a man of his age travel and says that Willy is too accommodating. Linda continues to make excuses for what Willy is experiencing.

In the middle of the play the reader notices that Linda actually has more control of the household than it appears. She is in charge of the finances. On page 18, Linda discusses the financial situation with Willy. She accounts for every dollar that is needed to pay the bills and fix miscellaneous around the house. In the middle of *Death of a Salesman*, Linda is also honest with Happy and Biff about what their father is going through. Linda tells Biff "The insurance inspector came. He said that they have evidence. That all these accidents in the last year – weren't – weren't – accidents." (Miller 33). She tells them about his suicidal tendencies and mentions the little rubber pipe. When asked if she has mentioned it to Willy, Linda says that she is embarrassed. Instead of addressing the issue, she puts the rubber hose back in place to how Willy left it.

At the end of the play, after Willy has committed suicide, Linda wonders why no one showed up to his funeral. On page 84, Miller writes "I can't understand it. At this time especially. First time in thirty-five years we were just about free and clear. He only needed a little salary. He was even finished with the dentist". Linda says this to Charley when speaking

about Willy's suicide. Linda finally tells Willy that she can't cry because she doesn't believe he's dead. When she remembers that they're free from the payments then she starts to cry. Linda is finally free from the burdens that Willy put upon her as well as financial burden. Like many mothers Linda will go at all costs to protect her family. Universally women although known as the submissive in a relationship, naturally protect members of their family and tend to hold the household together.

Happy Loman

In the beginning of the play, the reader notices that Happy appears to be goofy and shallow. He is very big on appearance and he loves money. Happy is also known as the womanizer between him and Biff. He exaggerates his life in order to appear to be more successful than he actually is. Happy has tried to impress Willy since he was a teenager but Willy was always focused on Biff. Happy says to Willy "I'm losing weight, you notice, Pop?" (Miller 15). Happy repeats the same line to Willy on page 17. Happy is desperate to get his father's attention.

In the middle of the play it is apparent that Happy still looks up to his father the same way he did as a teenager. On page 34, Miller writes "Sure you will. The problem with you and business was you never tried to please people". Happy says this to Willy when Willy is telling Linda that he is going to apply himself. Happy pretends to be more successful than he is. On page 60, Happy lies to a girl about owning a champagne company in order to impress her. It's evident that Happy believes in Willy's approach that being liked is the key to becoming a successful man. Happy doesn't seem to have changed much from the teenage boy that Willy flashes back to.

At the end of the play, Happy makes promises of marriage and promotions to Willy before Willy commits suicide. After Willy's suicide, Happy still believes in his father. When Biff is saying that Willy didn't know who he was Happy cries, "Don't say that!", repeatedly (Miller 84). Happy ends the play by stating that his father will not die in vain and that he will finish what he started. Throughout the play Happy gives himself more credit than he deserves in order to impress others. Happy's character ties in with the universal theme that some people never change. Some people will always remain stagnant regardless of how they present themselves to the world.

Biff Loman

At the beginning of the play the reader notices that teenage Biff believes everything that his father says. He, like Happy, also believes that being well-liked is the key to success. Biff believes he can break the rules because he is well-liked by his coach and steals a football from school. On page 15 Miller writes, "Well I borrowed it from the locker room". Biff says this jokingly when it is revealed that he stole the football. Willy tells Biff he has to return it however he doesn't reprimand Biff for stealing the football. Willy tells Biff he is the best of the best because he is well liked which becomes Biff's downfall.

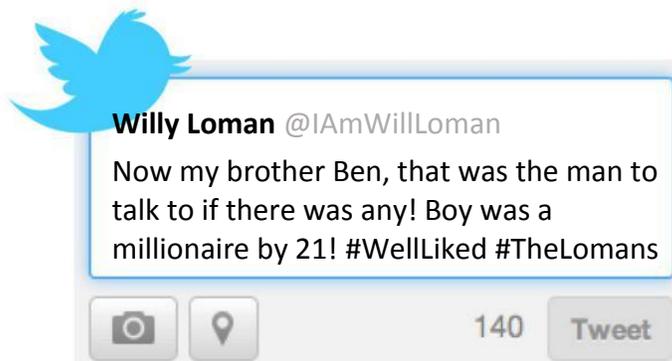
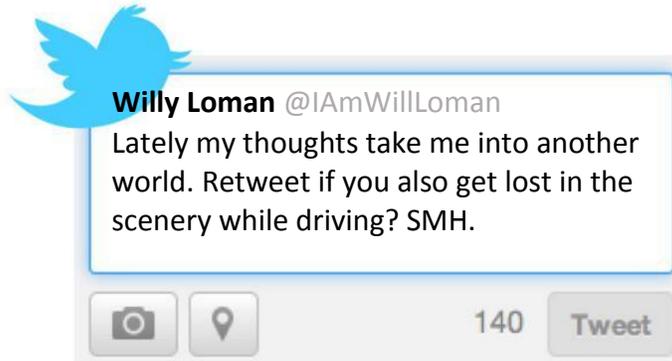
In the middle of the play, it is revealed why Biff feels resentment towards Willy. Willy is having an affair with a woman in Boston and Biff catches him. Everything that Biff believes about his father goes down the drain. Instead of an honest and honorable man, Biff sees his father as a phony. Biff says "You fake! You phony little fake! You fake!" (Miller 73). Biff feels betrayed by his father's affair and starts to despise everything he represents. Biff then misses his makeup exam and leads a life of theft. He ends up in jail for three years because he continues to

steal as an adult. Biff eventually comes clean about those years that he didn't have a telephone number.

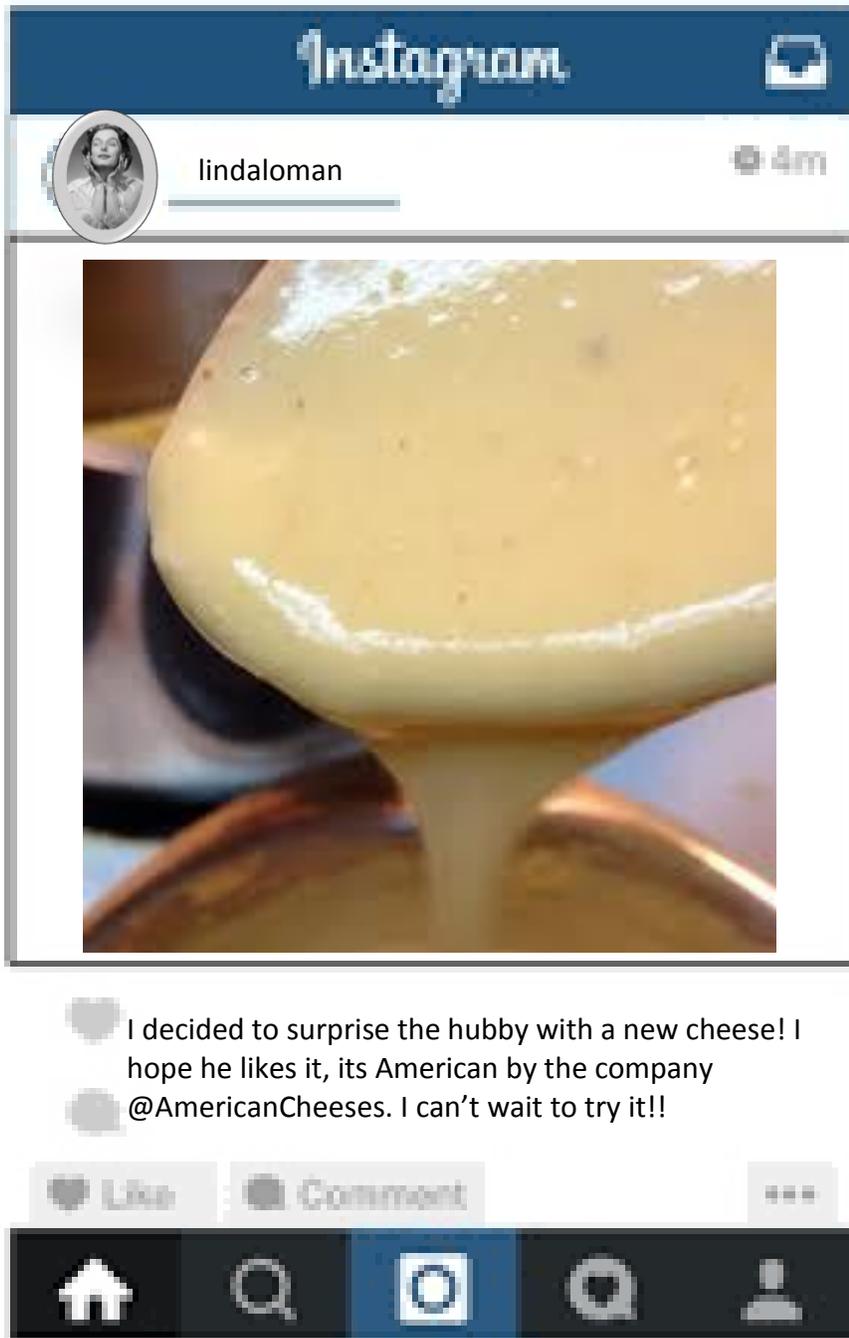
At the end of the play, Biff is in self-discovery mode. He wants to be honest about who he is. After he faces Oliver, Biff realizes he was never a salesman and that he was just a shipping clerk. Biff confronts Willy and says "Pop, I'm nothing! I'm nothing, Pop. Can't you understand that? There's no spite in it any more. I'm just what I am, that's all" (Miller 80). Biff runs into Willy's arms crying and this is the moment that Willy sees how much Biff actually loves him. Even after Willy's death, Biff says that Willy was never honest about who he was. Biff knows who he is now. The universal theme that Biff ties into is that being honest with yourself is the most important key to success. People who lie about who they are will never be happy until they face their reality. One can't live to please the perception that others hold of them.

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The Lomans on Social Media



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Instagram

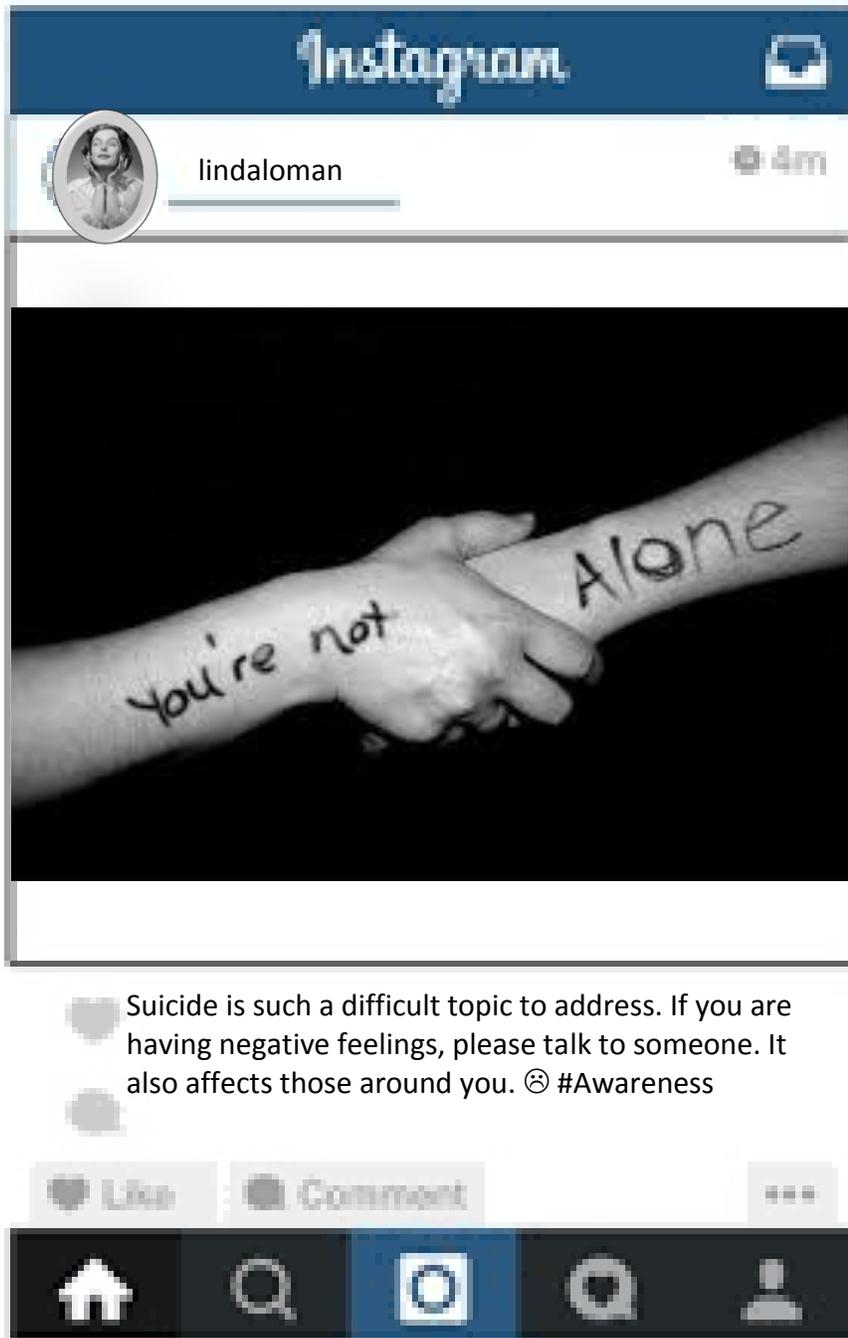
 linaloman 

I decided to surprise the hubby with a new cheese! I hope he likes it, its American by the company @AmericanCheeses. I can't wait to try it!!

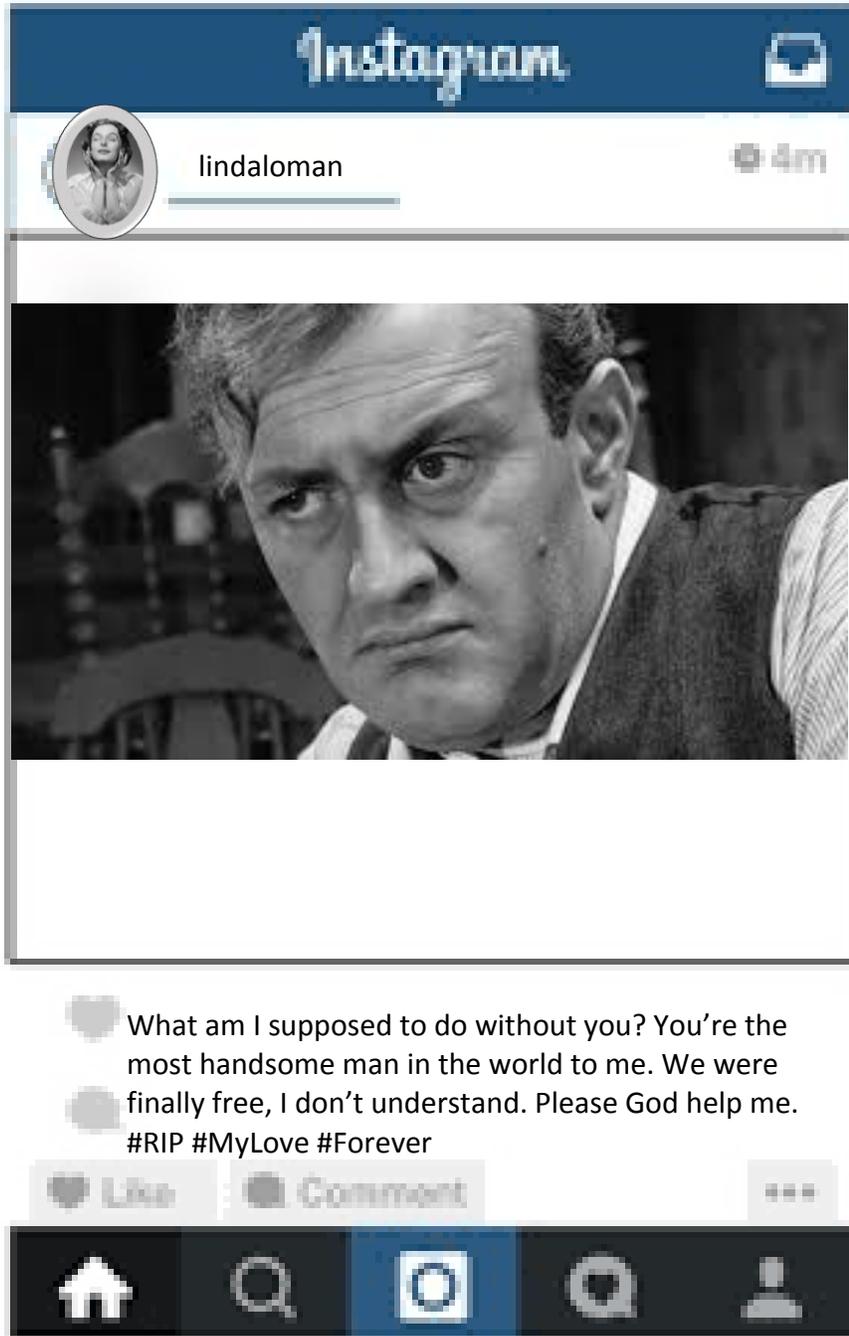
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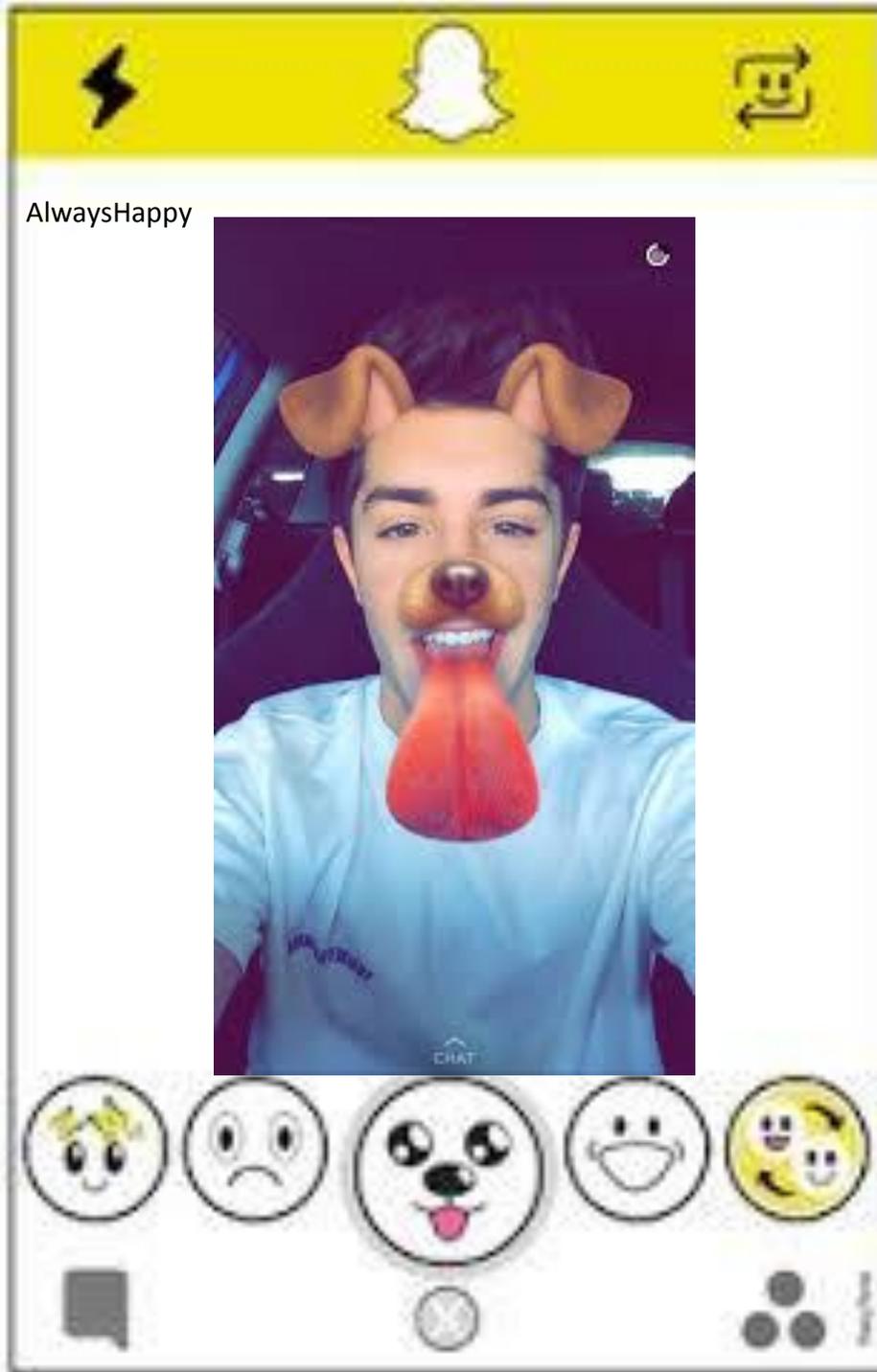
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Happy sending a snapchat with a dog filter to a girl he met.



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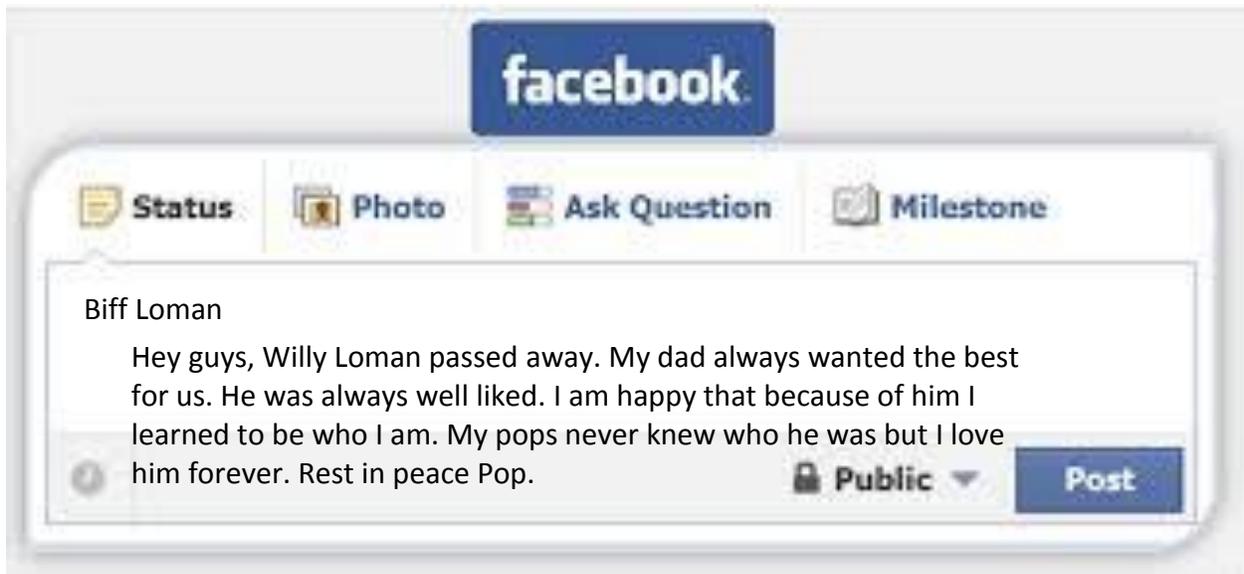
Happy sends the girl he met a 10 second video of his champagne bottles that his “company” produces in order to impress her.



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Happy mourns his father with a 24-hour picture post on Snapchat.





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Works Cited

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