

Willy Lowman as a Tragic Hero in Arthur Miller's Death of a Salesman

Dr. Sohan Lal

Assistant Professor

Department of English, Satyawati College
University of Delhi, India

ABSTRACT

The character analysis of Death of a Salesman will reveal how the main character, Willy Lowman, struggles to find meaning in his life and reaches a point of despair. He is motivated by the American Dream, but his ambition isn't fulfilled because of the failure he suffers. As a result, he becomes a recluse and ends up regretting his life. Willy Loman is an underprivileged man with many insecurities and flaws. These insecurities are formed when Willy was a young boy. He was abandoned by his father when he was a baby, and he never had the chance to talk to him. He eventually kills himself in the end. However, the analysis of Willy Loman's character will help us understand what makes him the way that he is. While Willy Loman is a lovable, charming, and generous person, he isn't particularly successful. He must create an alternate Willy who is more important to others. This is because Willy can't find true value in himself, so he lives by others. In fact, Willy's childhood memories reveal early warning signs of Willy's later problems. He attempts to impress boys by exaggerating the importance and prestige of his job. This character analysis will show that despite his mediocre accomplishments, the character is still far from being a tragic failure. The problem is that Willy lacks a deeper understanding of what defines success and happiness. He believes that the only way to be successful is to have charisma and be popular. This character analysis of Willy Lowman from Death of a salesman will look at the way his personality affects his life.

Keywords: sufferings, false standard, modern tragic hero, tragedy, American dream.

INTRODUCTION:

In the play Death of a salesman, Willy Lowman is generally portrayed as a villain. However, his inconsistent behavior, misplaced belief in the power of his personality, and anger are all compelling aspects of the character. This article will also explore his relationship with his son. Willy Lowman's character is a fascinating study for people interested in the play's themes. In this character analysis, you'll learn that Willy Loman has numerous flaws and insecurities, many of which are the result of his upbringing. The fact that he never had the chance to talk with his father or meet his future wife has contributed to his self-imposed insecurity. In the novel, his insecurities stem from a traumatic childhood experience. His father abandoned him and his siblings when he was a baby, and Willy never had the chance to meet him or talk to him. Willy's success and ambition are undermined by his lack of motivation and desire for success. He refers to his older brother, Ben, who made his fortune in the diamond mines in Africa. He is forced to work for the son of his former boss, Howard, but his job does not make him feel valued. He feels he is an unreliable salesperson, and his failure to make an impact on others is due to his appearance. Willy's sense of self-worth and success is largely dictated by his understanding of himself and the American ideal of fatherhood (CARDULLO, 2007).

His failures reflect a common American sensibility, and Willy transfers his own ambitions to his sons. He wants his sons to succeed in life as he couldn't, but his failures are ultimately reflected in his personal identity and values. Willy Loman's ego is also in the spotlight, as he spends most of his time fantasizing about his long-dead brother Ben. This is because Willy equates success with success, despite his ego's inflated ego. He attempts to play the role of the modern tragic hero, and fails miserably. He eventually dies, committing suicide after failing his son

(ERKAN, 2012). The tragic hero is a character who is driven by the need for success, but ultimately, he is left to struggle for the achievement of his goal. A tragic hero must struggle unrelentingly to attain human qualities. Willy's insecurity is a result of his failure to realize that his life is not worth living. Miller makes Willy's plight a tragic story. Willy's younger son, Happy, is an interesting example of a young character. He has lived in Biff's shadow his entire life. He compensates for this by nurturing his professional ambition and sex drive. Willy's sons are deeply disappointed by his failure to realize his dreams. As Willy ages, he loses touch with reality and becomes prone to depression and despair. The conflict between social pressure and personal reality is one of the central themes of the play (Martin, 1996).

Despite his success in business, Willy's wife, Linda, shows signs of suffering from Willy's self-delusions. She often seems taken in by Willy's inflated visions, while others see through his misguided dreams. However, despite her apparent fragility, she stands by Willy in the face of the greatest failure of all. The woman's unworthiness is reflected in her love for Willy. While the character of Willy Lowman has many characteristics, he is ultimately one of the most tragic. He is not particularly bright, but his naivety tries to teach him to be better than his father. He even calls him a liar while in a hotel room in Boston, so that he can receive the life insurance money he is due. Despite the fact that he is an extremely depressing character, Biff is a character analysis of Willy Lowman in *Death of a Salesman*. The son Biff is another example of a vulnerable character. Willy thinks of himself as a legend because of his son's admiration for him. However, this self-deception keeps Willy from achieving his own goals. He backtracks to try to be successful by thinking about his early success. The character remains a puzzled figure, but his son continues to admire him (VOGEL, 1991).

Willy Lowman As Tragic Hero:

The Willy Lowman character is a flawed salesman with a great deal of self-doubt. He has several unfulfilled dreams and never achieves any of them. In addition, he has to contend with his bitterness and insecurity. The story follows Willy as he tries to prove his worth and aspire to be a salesman just like his elder brother. But in the end, his failures make him realize just how insecure he is and why he should never try to achieve his goals. While in his youth, Willy has fantasies about his brother, who has long since died. He calls on his brother to offer him advice when he is fired from his job. After he gets fired from his job, Willy develops a scheme to kill himself. He debates his plan with Ben and ultimately decides to commit suicide. Happy is the opposite of his father in many ways, but he doesn't realize that it's the only way he'll have a happy ending use (VOGEL).

As the story progresses, Willy struggles with his identity and his relationship with his wife. His image of himself is constantly changing as he alternates between the past and the present. He often talks about his past with Biff but fails to communicate with him in the present. He praises Biff in one breath but criticizes him the next. This uncontrollable behavior is caused by his inability to distinguish the past from the present. The resulting confusion makes Willy feel insecure about himself. The central plot of *Death of a Salesman* is a study of the character Willy. The play revolves around the events of Willy's last 24 hours. All other character's act in response to Willy. The interactions between Willy and other characters form the basis of his character. Throughout the play, he reacts to different characters, different situations and different environments. He displays the hallmark behaviors of an artistic failure, including a contradiction between his actions and the character of his characters.

Willy's pride enables him to be so proud of his failure that he refuses to accept help from anyone else. His pride keeps him from accepting any form of help, but Charley continues to offer him money. In the end, Willy becomes a complete failure, even though he has managed to earn more than he ever expected. This character flaw ultimately undermines the plot of the novel. If you are an artist and you have been unable to sell your work, you are likely to be an artistic failure, too (M.P, April 2013).

His misplaced faith in the power of personality:

Willy is jealous of his successful neighbor Charley, who is also a salesman. This leads Willy to work for a company that does not appreciate him anymore. As a result, he realizes that he is no longer taken seriously. Willy blames his failure to make an impression on other people on the basis of his appearance. As a result, he views himself as a failure.

As a result of his insecurity, Willy commits suicide. This act serves as a tragic symbol, as the character is so far removed from reality. His life is characterized by the conflict between pride and insecurity. However, his pride masks his insecurity and ultimately leads him to commit suicide at the end of the play. He is the perfect example of the tragic hero (Thomson, 2016).

His anger:

Willy Lowman is a classic example of a modern American salesman. Willy's ambitions and drive to succeed are typical of a modern American, and his ideals mirror the expectations of most salespeople today. He firmly believes in the power of his personality and is constantly striving to achieve success. Unfortunately, his ambitions are never met and he limps behind the rest of his peers in the modern world. However, his fanatical adherence to his ideals and his retreat into illusions are both admirable and fantastic.

The play focuses on Willy Loman and his relationships with other characters, and this central character has many flaws. His insecurities are a result of a childhood situation in which his father abandoned him and Ben. As a result, he never had a chance to spend time with his father and was unable to communicate with him. In the end, Willy Loman's actions and words reveal his character, and reveal the conflicts that lie beneath his self-perception (Noorbakhsh Hooti Noorbakhsh Hooti, 2010).

His relationship with his son:

This classic play by Arthur Miller focuses on the dysfunctional Loman family and the relationship between father and son. While Biff's obsession with the elusive American dream and the father's need to be the center of the family are important themes in the play, the relationship between father and son also demonstrates the nature of human possessiveness. The relationship between father and son in this play is particularly complicated due to the fact that both Biff and Happy idolize their father.

Willy Loman's relationship with his son in *Death of a Salesman* is complex. The father-son relationship is strained due to the father's long-suffering behavior, especially when his sons are involved. Willy's sons are also divided in their philosophies and morals. While Biff tries to keep up with his father, he is increasingly angry at the sexism and materialism that are so prevalent in society (B. S. Field, 1972).

His anger at Linda Loman:

In *Death of a salesman*, Willy Lowman has many characters to be analyzed. As a salesman, he creates an illusion of success around himself and his son, who is destined to become a star in the business world. This way, he avoids thinking about the events that have led him to failure. One example of this is his jealousy of his neighbor, Bernard, who loves to play with Biff. In addition to his rival Bernard, he has a mistress named The Woman, who seems to be Willy's secretary. This affair enables Willy to live vicariously through his son, who is jealous of his success and finds Willy's infidelity insufferable.

In the play, Willy Loman is sixty-three years old. He is married with two sons. His wife, Linda, is a homemaker who tries to make ends meet. His wife, Linda, is a devoted supporter. The two men share equal responsibility for Willy's death. In fact, they are the ones responsible for Willy's downfall (N Maleki, 2010).

Search for Identity:

His failures are largely the result of his self-esteem and self-image. He equates his lack of success with superficial personal attributes, like his weight and clothes. His failure to make an impression on people is attributed to his looks and he blames these things for not getting ahead. Willy sees himself as an artistic failure, and thus feels a sense of failure. The story reveals how this attitude can negatively affect an individual's life. Willy's unhappiness is a direct result of his inability to grasp reality. He has never gotten the chance to realize that his talents lie in a different area than sales. In fact, the business world is no longer looking for charismatic salesmen to market their products. This means that Willy is doomed to fail. The American Dream is a fantasy, and he will never get there. Willy's life is also a manifestation of his own lack of success. His delusions of grandeur, inability to differentiate between the past and the present, and an inability to accept his son's failures are all manifestations of his insecurities. These failures are evident in his relationship with his sons, Biff represents the hope of the artist in him, and Happy embodies his ambition. Willy's tragic flaw is an important factor in his character development. Miller fails to give Willy Loman enough sympathy to make him sympathetic to the audience. Historically, a tragic hero would realize his flaw near the end of the play. Instead, Willy Loman loses his life. This is not an honorable choice. And his wife Linda is left in disarray. This tragic outcome makes the play a tragedy (Ardolino, 2002).

Willy Lowman an Artistic Failure:

Willy Lowman is a tragic example of artistic failure in American Literature. The author equates success with monetary possession. As a result, his funeral draws only five people. However, Miller uses Willy's death to teach an important lesson: achievement exists in different forms. Willy's original love for carpentry is forgotten. Willy dies tragically for a cause that does not merit his efforts. Willy craves attention and success. He refers to his older

brother Ben, who made a fortune in diamond mining in Africa. In contrast, Willy is forced to work for the son of his old boss, who fails to appreciate Willy's sales experience. Willy struggles with his own failures and often contradicts himself. In the end, he does not find success and he go through a downward spiral (CARDULLO, 2007).

Willy's family is a tragic failure. His attempts to "perfect" his family are one of the many mistakes he made. He is so obsessed with perfection that he does not see his accomplishments, only those that he could have done better. After all, his American Dream remains firmly in his mind. If only he had lived up to it. He could have achieved it. The tragedy of Willy's life reflects this unfulfilled dream. The tragic hero of Willy Loman has lofty ideals, but he never recognizes the love of his family. While his desire to emulate his brother's success is admirable and human, it ultimately causes Willy's untimely death. His resentment at his untimely death reveals a deep sense of self-loneliness. However, he never stops striving for that ideal. In the movie, Willy Lowman's house is described as fragile and small, surrounded by an impractical brick vault. While these apartment buildings may represent progress and prosperity, they do not represent a free life. Instead, they resemble the crumbling American dream, which Willy believes he has yet to achieve. The film reveals the repressive nature of our modern society. Willy Lowman's failure is emblematic of our own struggles and fears, and is a powerful reminder of the destructive power of modern society (B. S. Field, 1972).

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Willy Lowman, the main character of Miller's play, is an artistic failure in many ways. After working for the same company for decades, he no longer makes as much as he used to. His mind is exhausted and wanders aimlessly in search of solace, making him prone to absentmindedness and lack of concentration. His age also makes him unsuitable for driving sales trucks. His sons realize his condition and start to despising him for his lack of worth. Willy Lowman, a salesman, becomes a tragic hero. This character is devoted to his goal, and he sticks to his personal dreams with fanatical zeal. Despite his inability to accomplish his goal, Willy never gives up his vision or his expectations for himself and his sons. The audience is left to question whether a tragic hero can be a noble and virtuous man. Willy's failure to reach his goals in life leads to a series of personal failures. He has never succeeded in making the most of his potential. He has lived vicariously through his son Biff, but when he discovers that he has been cheating on Linda, he exposes these lies. The failures of Willy's life cause him to fall further (Thompson).

Willy's relationship with his brother Ben is also complex. He does not fully appreciate his brother's accomplishments, and his brother Ben is his role model. Ben is much older than Willy, but he chooses to assert his superiority over his younger brother and his dreams. He visits the Loman's house often on his business trips and often talks to him in hallucinations. Ben's story represents Willy's idea of an American Dream success story, despite being a much older brother than his own. Willy Loman is a flawed character in Arthur Miller's play *Death of a Salesman*. He believes in the American Dream of wealth and easy success, but his dreams never come true. Willy's emotional state begins to break down when his illusions fail him. His character consists of contradictory, angry, obsessive behavior (Hadiuzzaman*). Willy Loman's delusions create his trials, and he struggles to become his own tragic hero. In this way, Willy Loman is a modern-day tragic hero who is a representative of many American laborers. Unlike the hero in Shakespearean plays, Willy Loman is not passive or complacent. Instead, he strives to be more than what he is. Willy's relationship with his wife and family is problematic. He is unable to achieve the success that his business brings. He invests his home with sanctity, and he views it as patriarchal authority. He brags about his family to his business associates and sons. Yet when Willy does not support his wife, his son loses faith in Willy and his dream of passing math and going to college. The play revolves around Willy's predicament and his family's problems. Though Willy himself dies at the end of the play, the playwright uses this tragic figure to create an atmosphere of despair, misfortune, and tragedy in the play. As a result, audiences feel fear and pity for Willy's family. While Willy Loman was never a successful salesman, he is a tragic hero in a way. He lived a life of delusion and failed to achieve his goals. His hamartia, or self-deception, ultimately led him to commit suicide. Willy Loman's life is tragic because of his own delusion (Martin, 1996).

Death of a Salesman is a difficult play to categorize. Many critics have viewed this play in various ways, and Heyen gives his own reaction to it. But how does it relate to the larger question of whether Willy Lowman is an artistic failure? Is he a tragic failure? This play is an important consideration for anyone studying American Literature. If you're interested in learning about the character of Willy Lowman, this play is a great choice. The character of Willy Lowman is a classic example of an artistic failure. Willy has been trusting his brother Ben since childhood and he has a genuine affinity for his brother. When he is fired, Willy tries to seek his guidance from his long-dead brother, and he does so with a vague sense of regret. Willy later plans to kill himself, and Ben agrees

to the plan. This demonstrates his anti-work feelings (Ph.D., 2008).

CONCLUSION:

Willy Lowman's behavior in *Death of a Salesman* is characterized by an inability to accept reality. He repeatedly moves backwards in time, from present to past, and his contradictions become a metaphor for his character. For example, Willy praises Biff in one breath, and condemns him in the next. These contradictory thoughts are largely responsible for Willy's inconsistent behavior. However, Biff recognizes that Willy has a tendency to exaggerate reality and no longer supports his fantasy. Willy's inconsistency in the book's plot stems from his inconsistent behavior. He often dwells on the past and tries to sugar-coat the harsh realities of his present and future. This leads to a breakdown in desperation and hallucinations. His inconsistent behavior leads him to believe that his life is a failure. This reflects his inability to distinguish the past from the present. His success was achieved by influencing people and being persuasive. His family was told he would receive a \$20,000 life insurance payout, but it never materialized due to his suicide. His family also felt betrayed because they believed they would receive a check from Willy's life insurance policy. Willy's personal image is a constant struggle. He can't achieve the success he desires, but he can't find true happiness in his current relationships.

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