

ABSTRACT

This thesis attempts to show the tragic life of a common man who has followed the dreams of success but failed to make his dreams come true. The focus is on his conflicts and how he attempts to resolve them.

In analyzing the play, I make use of three theoretical approaches: the Reception Theory, the Expressive Approach, and the Sociological Approach. Death of a Salesman has been chosen the subject of this thesis because of its focus on the little men in the American society.

The analysis of the characters in the play tries to make clear that persons should know who and what they are and what they want out of life - this means that they will often be in conflict with their society's ideals, their values, and the destiny of the human person. Tragically Willy Loman, uncritically, accepts the success ethic of his time, which places a person's worth uniquely in material success. This is his downfall. It has ruined him and led him to the decision of committing suicide. This is the only way he can see to overcome his problems.