



Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman*

Characters/Part 2

By

Prof. Sabah Attalah Ali, Ph.D.

College of Education/Ibn Rushid

Baghdad University

Biff Loman

- Willy Loman's elder son, he is 34 years old
- Failures in school and work lead to a life of kleptomania (a desire to steal), a thing that is also implanted in him by his father since an early age.





Biff's perception of Willy as the ideal (perfect) father is destroyed after Biff's trip to Boston. Once he learns that Willy is having an affair, Biff rejects Willy and his philosophy.

Unlike Willy and Happy, Biff feels compelled to seek the truth about himself. He does finally accept and embrace the fact that he has been living a lie all of his life. He acknowledges his failure and eventually manages to confront it.



After his epiphany in Bill Oliver's office, Biff determines to break through the lies surrounding the Loman family in order to come to realistic terms with his own life.



Biff confesses that "We never told the truth for ten minutes in this house." In the Requiem scene at the play's end, Biff illustrates that he has truly come to an understanding of his father's failure to achieve success, observing that Willy "never knew who he was" and that he "had the wrong dreams."



Happy Loman

- Willy's younger son, Happy is 32 years old.
- He works as an assistant but exaggerates his position and his authority. However, like his father, he exaggerates his position in order to create the illusion of success.



- ❑ Happy has grown up in the shadow of his older brother, but he appears more content than Biff.
- ❑ Often engages in bad business ethics and tries to ruin his superiors by having affairs with their wives.



Happy is a young version of Willy. He incorporates his father's habit of manipulating reality in order to create situations that are more favorable to him. It seems likely that he will end up no better than Willy.

