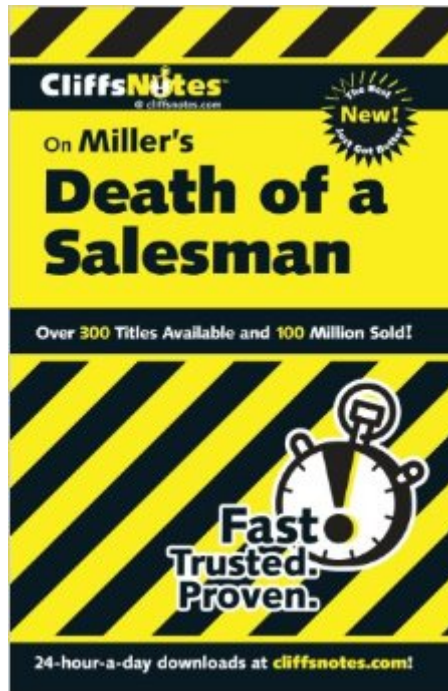


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CliffsNotes On Miller's Death Of A Salesman (Cliffsnotes Literature Guides)



Synopsis

The original CliffsNotes study guides offer a look into critical elements and ideas within classic works of literature. The latest generation of titles in this series also feature glossaries and visual elements that complement the classic, familiar format. CliffsNotes on *Death of a Salesman* shares an intimate glimpse into the dreams and disappointments of an American family. Following the story of Willy Loman, an aging salesman who can't accept change within himself and society, this study guide provides a character list, character map, and character analyses to explore the personalities within Arthur Miller's masterful play. Other features that help you figure out this important work include Personal and career background of the author, Introduction to and brief synopsis of the play, Summaries and expert commentaries for each act and scene, Essays that explore the play's major themes and the author's manipulation of time and space, A review section that tests your knowledge and suggests essay topics and practice projects, A Resource Center full of books, publications, films, and Internet resources. Classic literature or modern-day treasure — you'll understand it all with expert information and insight from CliffsNotes study guides.

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Customer Reviews

Willy Loman is the protagonist of the finest play ever written by an American. Eugene O'Neill and especially Tennessee Williams entertain perspectives on life that are much too neurotic to suit me. Arthur Miller's genius resulted in several wonderful plays, including *After the Fall* and *The Crucible*,

but it is *Death of a Salesman* that stands in a class by itself as the quintessential American play. Yet, as Miller himself was quick to point out, Willy Loman's appeal is universal. *Salesman* has mesmerized audiences around the world because it treats a question that is basic to the human condition: "What does it mean for a person to have integrity?" I've been thinking a lot lately about Willy Loman, as though he was a real person I once met and could never get out of my mind. I first met Willy when I was a young man studying acting with the Strasbergs in New York. Biff Loman was one of my favorite roles in class. I felt that he was me. Lacking the life experience to fully appreciate Willy, I identified more with Biff. One of the admirable qualities of *Salesman* is that it is possible to regard Linda or Biff or Happy as the main character depending upon who you are and where you are in life. Actually, *Salesman* takes place in Willy's mind so they are all manifestations of the salesman. One of the quirky aspects of *Death of a Salesman* is that so many people think it is a play about a salesman. Miller uses the salesman's role as a metaphor for the struggle to find the meaning of life. Willy could just as well be a butcher or a proctologist, but Miller understood that we are all salesmen in a way. We spend so much effort selling - to ourselves and others - the entity that we take to be "me."

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