

Candidate 1 evidence

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3	<p>In Arthur Miller's 'Death of a Salesman' he explores the tragic journey of an overworked Willy Loman who suffers many challenges within his home and the workplace, which ultimately leads to him taking his own life. The play's central theme is the burning delusion conveyed by Willy himself, and exasperated by the intangible American dream.</p> <p>With no hesitation at all, Willy is a recognisable characterisation, used by Miller, of delusion. Arguably it is his upmost, weakest flaw that his feeds his insanity. portrayed insanity. In the first few moments of the play the audience are exposed to Willy's bragging, he claims to be "vital in New England", even nicknaming himself the "New England man" and so the first impression is that this</p>

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	<p>man must be successful. Not long after Willy's display of arrogance, however, he starts to complain about the rent being increasingly hard to pay off. He mutters to Linda, "Work a lifetime to pay off a house. You finally own it, and there's nobody to live in it" there. Here Willy's cloud of delusion is erased slightly as although he can recognise the struggles him and his family have to face in this world, he subconsciously contradicts his earlier remarks as his so-called 'success' is not shown in the due house cost that lingers.</p>	
	<p>To make matters worse, instead of helping her incredibly deluded husband, Linda instead acts as a catalyst for his fat belief in a false reality. She can be admired,</p>	

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that she doesn't make any effort to suppress it.

~~Not only do certain characters~~
~~Not~~

The reason behind all of Willy's delusion towards winning the futile race against the American dream is the hallucinations of his brother Ben. Ben is a symbol of the American Dream and ~~recklessly~~ ~~reckless~~ relentlessly haunts Willy with the constant guilt of a missed opportunity. When visiting the Loman family Ben professed that, "When I went into the jungle I was seventeen, when I walked out I was twenty one. And, by God was I rich!" This, for Willy makes Ben an idol, a relic, the epitome of greatness and so it drives him into

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considering any other significance in his life as inferior. The fact that Willy knew that Ben was leaving as a child constantly makes him yearn with nostalgia at what 'could've been', he whines "Why didn't I go to Alaska with my brother Ben that one time!" And so, the American dream is a constant source of delusion in the play, it tickles its way into Willy's mindset.

Ridden with regret, Willy tries to utilise his delusion and pass it onto his sons, especially Biff. When Biff returns home lost about his future and mildly unsatisfied with working on the farm Willy retorts to Linda that "Biff is a lazy bum!", however not long

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	<p>after starts to think about how to help. As As a result of Willy's delusion and the looming pressure of securing the American Dream, Willy decides that what is best for Biff is to be a salesman. He suggests with excitement, "I'll get Biff a job selling" which instead illustrates to the audience how deluded Willy is to the point of him trying to live vicariously through his eldest son, just to get another chance. Clearly, the American Dream is not secured from the employment of a salesman, but Willy still sees faith without fail and profusely attempts to transfer his delusion on. This constant mindset drives the conflict between the pair as they have torn perspectives on</p>	

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how life should turn out.

Although Biff is strong enough to not crumble at the feet of the American dream, Happy falls right into the trap. ~~✗~~ In the requiem the audience sees an ironic full circle moment where instead the youngest son, sees his fathers death as an opportunity for redemption. Happy furiously defends Biff insight of Willy having "all the wrong dreams" and swears to continue the legacy of a great man. This here is a prime example of delusion as it seems to burn bright in the Loman family's ever-burning fire.

In conclusion, the play is almost a lesson of how detrimental delusion can be as it constantly slaps avid believers

