

Candidate 2 evidence

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3.	<p>There can be few plays in which the issue of the loss failure of the American Dream is explored more skilfully than in Arthur Miller's tragedy, 'Death of a Salesman'. The protagonist, Willy Loman is a failed businessman and investor in the dream American Dream, a pursuit which will eventually lead him to suicide.</p>	
	<p>Even before a character enters the stage, Miller introduces his key issue of the failure of the American dream. We see Willy's 'small & fragile-seeming home' surrounded by the 'towering, angular shapes' of capitalist America, a world in which Willy's 'massive dreams' have trapped him. The American dream has not only led Willy to financial instability but to mental turmoil too. Miller symbolises Willy's fractured mind with the setting which is 'wholly or in some places partially transparent'. This technique, borrowed from German</p>	

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	<p>expressionist theatre also will allow the dramatist to more easily explore the mind of the small man who is oppressed by his dreams and the world around him. As Soon after Willy comes first comes on stage, Miller foreshadows the old man's inevitable demise as among the salesman's first words are the ominous, 'I'm tired to the death.' Willy's pursuit of the American Dream have also also caused him to be at conflict with his son, Biff. This conflict is immediately established as the old man first complains that, 'Biff is a lazy bum!' He then, however, quickly contradicts himself by calling his son 'such a hard worker' As Through these lines, Miller introduces this deep-rooted conflict and again highlights Willy's mental instability, all caused by caused by his faith in the Dream. The American Dream is riddled through this country and Miller simply uses Willy as a prime example</p>

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	of how it is is set to fail, and of how big an issue its failure is in American society.
	Miller's next stage in his exploration of the American dream is to show us one of Willy's 'imaginings'. In this hallucination, Willy sees his dead brother brother, Ben, whom he considers 'success incarnate'. Willy admires how Ben 'started with the clothes on his back and ended up with diamond mines'. Here, Miller conveys how the obsessions Ben will come to personify the issue of the American Dream. Willy Although Willy sees Ben, everything is he strives for, he cannot escape the fact that he is suffering and gives us his image of complete devastation, 'the woods are burning'. The proud man feels pain but is deluded as to what has caused it. Instead of acting to help Willy to cast aside his by dangerous dreams, this vision of Ben, in fact, renews Willy's

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	<p>faith in the Dream. Willy leaves his brother As his brother leaves, Willy exclaims, 'the greatest things can happen!'. Here Miller highlights how Willy has become trapped by his dreams and refuses to escape. This ^{vicious} entrapment leads goes to show how important an issue the failure of the American dream is in the society.</p> <p>At the beginning of the second act, Miller injects some optimism into the thoroughly depressed mind of Willy Loman. The old man is going to his Boss Howard to seek a better job. When he does meet with Howard, though, Willy's plea is damningly built upon his dream of being 'remembered and helped and loved by so many different people'. The playwright hits his theme again as the again the American Dream fails Willy. Howard shows the old man little respect and Willy is forced to reduce and reduce his self-worth. As this happens Willy grows angry and until he screams:</p>

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	<p>which has tormented the old man and which was caused by the American Dream.</p>	
	<p>After this revelation, Miller has now set up for his final attack on the issue of the American dream. Willy's desire to leave something behind him is made clear as the old man admits he does not not 'have anything in the ground'. The symbol of the seeds is beautifully extended as we see Willy back home planting the garden which he knows will not grow. Biff then comes home and Miller turns the key conflict into open confrontation. Biff tells Willy that they are both worth just 'one dollar an hour'. The young man throws truth after painful truth at Willy but still Willy prefers to reside in a fruitless dream than face reality. Biff again Through Biff, Miller again attacks the American Dream as the young man screams at Willy, 'Willy you take that phony dream and burn it before something happens!' Finally the tension</p>	

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	<p>proves too much for Biff and he 'breaks down sobbing, holding onto Willy'. Finally, Willy sees that his son loves him but this only drives him to suicide as he wants to leave insurance money behind for Biff. the The final strand of Willy's dream is vicarious success. Of course, though, there will be no payout or suicide. Finally, Willy dies deluding himself in a vain attempt to reconcile reality and fantasy.</p> <p>In the requiem, Miller offers various perspectives on Willy's life and death and on the role of the small man with a dream in the oppressive United States. Friends and family all give their opinions but it is clear that Biff's is the only one with which Miller agrees. The young man can see that his father 'had the wrong dreams. All, all wrong'. This epitomises and brings to a close Miller's exploration of the issue of the failure of the American Dream.</p>