### SECTION 2

3. There can be few plays in which the issue of the failure of the American Dream is explored more skillfully than in Arthur Miller’s Tragedy, ‘Death of a Salesman’. The protagonist, Willy Loman, is a failed businessman and investor in the ‘Great American Dream’, a pursuit which will eventually lead him to suicide.

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 capitalism 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 symbolizes Willy’s fractured mind with the setting, which is ‘shifty’ or in some places, ‘transparent’. This technique, borrowed from cinema,
expressionist theatre also will allow the dramatist to more easily explore the mind of the small men who are oppressed by his dreams and the world around him. Soon after Willy
just comes on stage, Miller foreshadows the play's inevitable demise as among the salesmen's first words as the audience, 'I'm
tired to the death,' Willy's pursuit of the
American dream have also caused him
to be in conflict with his son, Biff. This
conflict is immediately established as the old man first complains, 'Biff is a lazy bum.' He
then, however, quickly contradicts himself by calling
his son 'such a hard worker.' Throughout
these lines, Miller introduces this deep-rooted conflict and again highlights Willy's mental instability, all
castly caused by his faith in the Dream.
The American Dream is riddled throughout the play,
and Miller simply uses Willy as a prime example.
of how it 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, Ben, whom he considers 'the success incarnate'. Willy admires how Ben 'started with the clothes on his back and ended up with diamond suits.' Here, Miller conveys how the obsession Ben will come to possess the issue of the American Dream.

Although Willy sees Ben, everything he strives for, he cannot escape the fact that he is suffering and gives an 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 cut aside his big, dangerous dreams, this vision of Ben, in fact, screws Willy's
faith in the dream. Willy leaves his brother to 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 entrapment goes to show how important an issue the failure of the American dream is in society.

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. Like he does meet with Howard, though, Willy’s plea is devastatingly rejected. Upon his dream of being remembered and looked after by so many different people. The playwright has themed his theme again, as the three again the American dream fails Willy. Howard shows the old man little respect and tells Willy is forced to reduce and reduce his self-worth. As this happens, Willy grows angry and he screams:
You can’t eat the orange and throw
the peel away - a man is not a
piece of fruit!"

Here, Miller evokes sympathy in audience
for how Willy has been exploited and then
discarded by the capitalist system. However, this
pity is coupled with the knowledge that Willy
has brought about his own downfall through
point of the dream. Finally, Howard shows
no mercy and effectively fires Willy. This scene
epitomises Miller’s exploration of the issue of the
American Dream as its pursuit has now left
Willy at rock bottom.

Willy’s fractured life is now broken,
and Miller simply uses this stage in the
characterisation of Willy to again highlight what
a key issue the failure of the American Dream is in
Society. Willy's dream is left with only one shred of hope: that if he landed a big business deal. Of course, this we knew this hope will be crushed. But, however, is one of two perceptive characters in the play and can see what a ridiculous lie my whole life has been. We've been talking in a dream for fifteen years.

The dejected old man, though, cannot accept this reality and instead his broken mind is forced he again gives his image of complete devotion, 'the woods are burning'. Now Willy's broken mind is forced to realize the source of his conflict with Biff. We see a young Biff 'terrified' to discover that his father has had an affair. Willy tries to talk him out of it but Biff just screams, 'You take! Youphony little fake!' This is exactly a key revelation as to the source of Willy's conflict with Biff now.
which her torment the old man and which was caused by the American Dream.

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 doesn't '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 now comes home and Miller turns the key conflict into open confrontation. Biff tells Willy that they are both worthless 'just one dollar an hour.' The young man shows truth after painted truth at Willy end still Willy prefers to mind in a foolish dream from the reality. Biff again through Biff, Miller again attacks the American Dream as the young screams at Willy, 'Willy, you take that phony dream and burn it before something happens.' Finally, the tension...
Prevention 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. 8

The final strand of Willy's dream is vicarious success. Of course, though there will be no patent on suicide. Finally, with due defending himself in a vain attempt to reconcile reality and fantasy.

In the region, 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 epiphany and brings to a close Miller's exploration of the issue of the failure of the American Dream.