

*Death of a Salesman*  
Pre-Reading Questions

1. What was happening economically and socially in the United States in the late 40's-early 50's? Was it fairly easy or difficult to get a job? For men? For women? What was America's standing in the world?

Economically and socially the United States was doing pretty well and because of the end of the Great Depression and the war. Though socially inequality still existed especially in the forms of racism and sexism. White men could find higher paying jobs much easier than women. The United States had also become a global superpower.

2. What is your definition of a sales person? How is sales different from other occupations? What attitude/outlook does it take to succeed? What attitudes would hinder him/her?

I believe that a sales person is someone who is in sales and sells things. This occupation relies on persuasion skills as well as effective communication. One must always be positive/upbeats and constantly working to succeed, and a surly disposition would not benefit them.

3. Should parents be good role models? What effect do the expectations of parents have on the behavior of their children? In what ways might parental expectations be beneficial? In what ways might they be harmful?

Parents are held to the highest standards among role models and children become their parents. Their expectations and values are also valued by their children. These expectations can drive children to succeed, but if too unrealistic they can burn their child out.

4. What makes a healthy romantic relationship? What role does respect play? Give and take? Compassion? Honesty?

A healthy romantic relationship requires respect, honesty, integrity, as well as confidentiality. Respect is the keystone of all relationships, and without it, the relationship will fail. There may be gives and takes but they must be on equitable terms. Compassion plays a supporting role in a healthy romantic relationship, but unlike honesty which is the heart of it.