

The article "The Lost Father of a Salesman" goes into depth about the character of Willy Loman's father which from the writer of the article's perspective is "deeply embedded in the play's structure". Willy Loman's father can be considered as the first character on stage when he is represented by a flute melody right at the beginning. It foreshadows the revelation of his father's occupation and abandonment. The writer also discusses how the loss of a father figure in Willy Loman's life has also passed on to Biff's which could be perceived in a number of different ways. Although Willy is very much present physically, the deterioration of his mental state has alienated him from his family causing Biff to feel abandoned and unresolved about the earlier dispute with his father when he found him with his mistress when he was in a time of need. Alternatively it could be argued that Biff feels deprived of the father figure he once idolized and, after observing his affair, is still coming to terms with the idea of Willy being a "fake".