
HW #9: DOAS Act 1: Delve In Question

Choose one question to answer in depth. Make a claim and integrate three quotes to “prove” your point. You must introduce, explain and analyze each quote you include. Use the “Delve In Paragraph” format listed below.

1. What is Biff’s American dream?
2. How and why does Willy deny his reality?
3. What is Willy’s American dream?
4. Describe Willy and Biff’s relationship.

Delve-In Response Graphic Organizer: “Death of a Salesman” Example **Question: How would you characterize Willy and Linda’s relationship?**

Claim (including the author and book title):

In *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller, the main character’s wife, Linda Loman, is very accommodating and considerate of her husband’s needs, but all she gets in return is rude, argumentative, and unappreciative treatment.

Quote #1 Introduction and Analysis: (Use a transition)

To demonstrate, when her husband, Willy, comes home from a trip, she tries to take care of him by taking off his shoes for him and offering to make him a sandwich (Miller 13,14). However, when she gently chides him for losing his temper with their son, Biff, he responds with

Quote #1: (Be sure to use quotation marks and put page number in parenthesis).

an angry, “When the hell did I lose my temper” (15)?

Quote #1 Analysis: (Explain. How does the quote “prove” your point?)

Linda had been doing her best to be considerate and to make him comfortable, but he doesn’t seem to realize this and instead, behaves very disrespectfully towards her, even using the word “hell.”

Quote #2 Introduction and Analysis:

Furthermore, Linda tries to be considerate by preparing him a snack of whipped cheese, thinking that he might “like a change” (17). All she receives for her efforts is an adamant outburst from Willy, yelling

Quote #2:

“I don’t want a change! I want Swiss cheese. Why am I always being contradicted” (17)?

Quote #2 Analysis:

Linda is clearly trying her hardest to please him and make him happy, but he does not appreciate her efforts, and he even gets extremely angry about something so insignificant.

Quote #3 Introduction and Analysis

Finally, Willy is impatient and acts rudely towards Linda for no good reason.

Quote #3:

He asks her in frustration, “Why don’t you open a window in here, for God’s sake?” when all the windows are already open (17).

Quote #3 Analysis:

If he felt that it was stuffy in the room, he could have opened the windows himself. Or, he could have asked her politely to open the windows. It wasn’t Linda’s fault that he felt “boxed in,” yet he continually takes his frustrations out on her and treats her disrespectfully.

Concluding Sentence: (Restate your claim).

To sum up, Linda and Willy are in a relationship where she tries really hard to please him, and all she gets in return is disrespect and poor treatment.
