

1	Introduction	
	The Author – His Life and Works	5
	Arthur Miller's family	5
	His boyhood and youth	6
	Becoming a playwright	8
	Writing <i>Death of a Salesman</i>	9
	The play's great success	10
	Miller after <i>Death of a Salesman</i>	11
	The Time of the Great Depression and the Truman Years	13
	Brooklyn	15
	American Drama	16
	Realism in drama	17
	Expressionism in drama	17
2	Analysis and Interpretation	
	<i>Death of a Salesman</i> – Summary of the Dramatic Action	18
	Act One	18
	Act Two	28
	Requiem	36
	Dramatic Elements	37
	Formal structure	37
	Structural means	39
	The Stage and the Stage Directions	40
	The Characters	42
	Willy Loman	42
	Biff	46
	Linda	48
	Happy	49
	Ben	49
	Charley and Bernard	50
	Howard Wagner	51
	Minor characters	51
	Themes and Motifs	52
	Illusion – delusion	52
	Father-son-conflict	53
	The American Dream – capitalism – social criticism	55
	The American way of life	56

Nature vs. city	57
The role of women	59
Language – Dialogue – Irony	60
The characters' language	60
Dialogue	62
Irony	62
Symbolism – Scenic Devices	63
Symbols	63
Theatrical images	65
Gestures	66
Sounds and lighting	67
<i>Death of a Salesman</i> – Tragedy of the Common Man	68
The Origin of Willy Loman	69

3

Fast Facts

Outline 1: Formal Structure	72
Outline 2: The Setting of the Play	74
Outline 3: Imagery	75
Outline 4: Structure of Relationships	76
Outline 5: The Relationship between Father and Son	77
Outline 6: Willy Loman between Self-delusion and Reality	78
Outline 7: The American Dream	79

4

Model Questions and Answers

1. Comprehension	82
2. Interpreting Different Aspects of the Play	85
3. Creative Writing	92
4. A Step Beyond	93
Bibliography	94