

WHS Book Rationale

Title: *Death of a Salesman*

Author: Arthur Miller

- **Intended Audience**
 - English 11 Honors / English 11
- **Brief summary and educational significance**
 - Revolves around Willie Loman, aging traveling salesman and his loss of the American Dream as well as his response to oblivious children who do not meet his expectations.
 - Important drama by one of America's greatest playwrights.
- **Purpose of teaching the work and how it will be used**
 - Explore elements of drama focusing on change, connections to timeframe in American history.
 - Explore dynamic and static characters, ageism, defining the American Dream, family roles and dynamic, urban sprawl and city life.
- **Potential problems**
 - Suicide, adultery, family violence and emotional abuse.
- **Addressing potential problems**
 - Opportunities for class discussion of history, conflict, family issues, changing work environment, consequences of Willie's actions.