

The most important character in the play is obviously Willy Loman. Realizing that he has not been able to put Biff on the right track for success, and feeling subconsciously that he was responsible for Biff's disenchantment, he decides to commit suicide in order to leave Biff the sum of \$20,000, the value of his insurance. What makes his relation to Biff more of a burden and a source of anxiety is that he always loved his eldest son Biff and this love was mutual. Such failure had far reaching impact on an athlete who was expected to win athletic scholarships for university education. Biff thus has recourse to his father to try to influence the teacher. This episode breaks Biff, and he gives up on a university education and a career as an athlete on a scholarship. Willy agonized because he lost the love and respect of Biff, but he never pulled himself together to admit that the Boston episode ruined Biff and his relation to him. He is not only getting old and tired, he is beginning to find out that he is physically unable to meet the demands of his job. Financially, he has been put on commission like a freshman salesman. Biff loved his father and considered him a model, an idol. This lasted until Biff's graduation from high school. He failed mathematics (he missed classes and mocked the teacher). Biff tried to persuade his math teacher to give him the grade needed for passing the course, but the teacher would not. Willy's love for Biff is seen in his suicide.