

Death of a Salesman

By Arthur Miller

Directions: Answer the practice AP questions that correspond to passages from the text. Then, choose 1 of the two free response questions and respond to it in an essay of at least 3-4 paragraphs.

AP Questions

Passage 1, Questions 1-8. Read the passage from Act 1 which begins with the stage directions at the beginning of the act and ends with the stage directions after Linda says, "The cheese is on the middle shelf!" carefully before you choose your answers.

1. In the stage directions describing the Lomans' house, which of the following LEAST suggests a correlation with the family as they are introduced in this opening scene?
 - a. "surrounding it on all sides"
 - b. "an angry glow of orange"
 - c. "fragile-seeming"
 - d. "An air of the dream"
 - e. "But no other fixtures"

2. In the opening conversation between Linda and Willy, up to the point at which Willy says, "No, go to sleep," Linda could most accurately be described as
 - a. Solicitous
 - b. nagging
 - c. curious
 - d. condescending
 - e. affectionate

3. Willy argues with Linda's assessment of life, saying, "No, no, some people—some people accomplish something." It can be inferred that Willy's view of "accomplishing something" would include
 - I. Prospering financially
 - II. Living and working in the city
 - III. Having a cohesive family
 - a. I only
 - b. III only
 - c. I & II only
 - d. I & III only
 - e. I, II, and III

4. Taken as a whole, Willy's comments about Biff are most notable for their
 - a. Rancor
 - b. objectivity
 - c. originality
 - d. compassion
 - e. inconsistency

5. Willy's scornful judgment that "Biff Loman is lost" is an example of
 - a. Foreshadowing
 - b. irony
 - c. sarcasm
 - d. allusion
 - e. understatement

6. The examples Willy cites to illustrate his point that some people "don't get started till later in life" demonstrates his
 - a. Paternal insight into Biff's nature
 - b. Own identification with such men
 - c. Extremely unrealistic perspective
 - d. Impressive knowledge of American history
 - e. Understanding of the true meaning of success

7. Willy's conversation in this passage reveals that much of his thinking involves
 - a. Reveries about the past
 - b. Plans for the immediate future
 - c. Reflections on all he has accomplished
 - d. Ideas for helping his sons succeed
 - e. Concerns about being a burden on Linda

8. In the context of this passage, which of Linda's statements is most incompatible with reality?
 - a. "I just thought you'd like a change"
 - b. "Just try to relax, dear"
 - c. "He'll find his way"
 - d. "Well, that's nothing"
 - e. "Be careful on the stairs, dear!"

Passage 2, Questions 9-17. Read the passage from Act 1 of *Death of a Salesman* which begins with Biff saying, "George and Sam and Frank, come out back!" and ends with Willy yelling "Ignoramus!" carefully before you choose your answers.

9. Willy's disparaging evaluation of himself is elicited by
 - a. Linda's reassurances of her admiration for him
 - b. Linda's expressions of confidence that sales will improve
 - c. His memory of the affair with the woman in Boston
 - d. His unavoidable confrontation with economic realities
 - e. His realization that he has unwisely purchased poorly made products

10. The placement of the recollection of the conversation with the "Woman" suggests that
 - a. Willy knows his professions of love for Linda are insincere
 - b. The Woman was more accepting of Willy than Linda is
 - c. Willy considers his affair to be yet another example of failure on his part
 - d. Linda suggests from Willy's words that he may have had an affair
 - e. Willy realizes he is being overly critical of himself

11. Coming after the conversation between Willy and Linda, the Woman's words to Willy reveal
 - a. That the woman was insincere
 - b. Why Willy would be drawn to her
 - c. Willy's shame over his betrayal of Linda
 - d. How fickle Willy can be
 - e. The depth of Willy's feelings for her

12. In his promise to his wife, "I'll make it all up to you, Linda," Willy is referring to all of the following EXCEPT
 - a. The way he has "trained" Biff
 - b. Their financial worries
 - c. Having had an affair
 - d. Not being as attractive as he might be
 - e. His lack of sales success

13. Willy angrily demands that Linda throw out the stockings she is mending because
- I. Her mending them implies that he cannot provide new stockings
 - II. He is frustrated at having to face harsh realities
 - III. The stockings remind him that he betrayed her
- a. II only b. III only c. I & II only d. II and III only e. I, II, and III
14. Willy's explosive defense of Biff ("He's got spirit, personality...") most likely arises out of his
- a. Paternal pride in Biff
 - b. Belief that Biff will be successful
 - c. Impulse to protect himself
 - d. Anger at Bernard's self-righteousness
 - e. Resentment that Linda criticized Biff
15. Willy's telling Charley, "Don't talk about something you don't know anything about" could best be described as
- a. Paternal
 - b. ironic
 - c. hyperbolic
 - d. hysterical
 - e. dispassionate
16. The conversation between Willy and Ben could most accurately be characterized as a
- a. Reminiscence
 - b. hallucination
 - c. reverie
 - d. longing
 - e. projection
17. Willy's anger in this passage is primarily
- a. Unjustified
 - b. inexplicable
 - c. controlled
 - d. repressed
 - e. displaced

Passage 3, Questions 18-25. Read the passage from Act 1 of *Death of a Salesman* which begins with the stage directions [Willy walks in from the entrance of the house, at left] and ends at the conclusion of the act carefully before you choose your answers.

18. The stage directions when Biff begins to speak to Willy about Bill Oliver—[with reserve, but trying, trying]—refer to Biff's attempt to
- a. Give Willy some hope
 - b. Maintain his temper
 - c. impress Willy with his prospects
 - d. convince Willy of his potential
 - e. repair his relationship with Linda
19. Happy's "Loman Brothers" plan sounds ideal because
- a. His and Biff's talents complement one another very well
 - b. It would appeal to fans of two of the most lucrative sports
 - c. It appeals to the dreams of both Willy and Biff
 - d. The two brothers' combined capital would allow them to reach a larger market
 - e. Marketing in large hotels would reach a large pool of potential customers
20. Which of the following statements by Willy is NOT ironic?
- a. "Start off with a couple of your good stories to lighten things up"
 - b. "Don't interrupt"
 - c. "Ah, you're counting your chickens again"
 - d. "Give my best to Bill Oliver"
 - e. "Don't take his side all the time, goddamnit!"

21. Linda's behavior toward Willy is LEAST characterized by her
- a. Toleration of him
 - b. Appeasement of him
 - c. questioning him
 - d. catering to him
 - e. soothing him
22. Based on this passage, Happy's name could best be described as
- a. Ironic
 - b. apt
 - c. paradoxical
 - d. incongruous
 - e. inconsequential
23. In this passage, Willy plays the role of Biff's
- I. Critic
 - II. Fan
 - III. Mentor
- a. I only b. I and II only c. I and III only d. II and III only e. I, II, and III
24. The stage directions [The light on WILLY is fading...beneath red coils] are an example of
- a. Allusion
 - b. Personification
 - c. symbolism
 - d. anthropomorphism
 - e. synesthesia
25. The effect of Biff's final actions in the act is heightened by means of
- a. Exaggeration
 - b. parallelism
 - c. subordination
 - d. juxtaposition
 - e. coordination

Free Response Questions (choose 1):

1. The quest for the American Dream, and the nature of that Dream, is a theme in numerous works of literature. In a well-organized essay, discuss the development of this theme in *Death of a Salesman*. In particular, examine Willy Loman's version of the American Dream, his attempts to attain it, and what his death reveals about the nature of his quest.

2. In broad terms, a "tragedy" is a work in which the main character is brought to ruin, usually as a consequence of a predominating weakness or tragic flaw. According to Aristotle, the fall of the protagonist creates pity and fear in the audience, and the release of these emotions provides a catharsis. Typically, a tragic hero is a person who is highly renowned and prosperous, a description that does not apply to the aptly named Willy Loman. However, many critics have characterized *Death of a Salesman* as an American tragedy. In a well-organized essay, explain why the play should or should not be classified as a tragedy, supporting your points with specific evidence from the play.

English 11 Honors Summer Reading

In the Lake of the Woods by Tim O'Brien

Part 1: Hypotheses

Directions: Included throughout the book are 8 "Hypothesis" Chapters. As you read, keep track of each proposed hypothesis, and provide support from the text to discuss the plausibility of each. Create a chart similar to the one below, or copy it into your own document.

Chapter	Hypothesis Proposed	Plausible, because...	Not plausible, because...

Part 2: Guided Reading Questions

Directions: As you read *In the Lake of the Woods*, answer the following questions in complete sentences.

Chapter 1, "How Unhappy They Were"

1. Who are the main characters? Explain their current relationship, their dreams, and their problems. What do they want more than anything else?

Chapter 2, "Evidence"

2. What insight into John Wade's character is provided in the comments by his mother, Eleanor Wade?

Chapter 3, "The Nature of Loss"

3. What was John's first reaction to his father's death?

4. What is John's opinion of "pretending"?

Chapter 4, "What He Remembered"

5. What "pretenses" do Kathy and John try to maintain? John notices a significant moment in Kathy's behavior while she is doing dishes; how does he describe the look on her face?

Chapter 6, "Evidence"

6. What is the significance of his nickname in the army? What is the difference in connotation between "Magician" and "Sorcerer"? What similarities between magicians and politicians are pointed out by Tony Carbo?

Chapter 7, "The Nature of Marriage"

7. "Finesse and deception" became John's specialties; how did he use them in spying on Kathy? What action in Kathy's behavior justified his spying in his mind?

8. What foreshadowing warning does Kathy give John on a postcard?

9. How does John react to Reinhart's murder by a sniper? What emotions govern his actions? What "magic trick" do he (and his buddies) perform in the village?

Chapter 8, "How the Night Passed"

10. From his memory of the election, what can you piece together concerning why he was defeated in the primary?

11. What does John do with the first teakettle full of boiling water? Where does he head with the second one?

Chapter 10, "The Nature of Love"

12. Describe the situation with PFC Weatherby. What did John do and why? How does he react?

13. What happy moment in John's political career is recounted in this chapter? What is ironic about John's singing lyrics from Frank Sinatra's song "My Way"?

Chapter 11, "What He Did Next"

14. After John finds the boathouse empty, what does he imagine seeing? What "ugly pictures" were beginning to appear in John's mind?

Chapter 13, "The Nature of the Beast"

15. In what atmosphere had Charlie Company been operating in the area around Pinkville? How does Lt. Calley show his frustration with the war?

16. How does John react as he walks around the village? Explain his conclusion that "This was not madness, Sorcerer understood. This was sin."

Chapter 15, "What the Questions Were"

17. As John tries to recall the chronology of their last hours together, what images come to mind? What is your theory about the teakettle, the puffs of steam, the flapping sound, the buzzing, and finding himself waist-deep in the lake? John calls these things "sub-memories. Images from a place beneath the waking world, deeper than dream, a place where logic dissolved. It was beyond remembering. It was knowing." What does he mean?

Chapter 16, "Evidence"

18. What insight do the passages from J. Glenn Gray's book *The Warriors* add to understanding the soldiers involved in the My Lai massacre?

19. According to the psychiatrist Judith Herman, what is the ordinary response to atrocities?

Chapter 17, "The Nature of Politics"

20. What are some examples from this chapter that show John to be a deceptive, manipulative person?

Chapter 19, "What Was Found"

21. As John inspects the boathouse again, what does he have trouble visualizing? As a result, what feeling does he experience?

Chapter 20, "Evidence"

22. What is the difference between the two metaphors used by Claude and Ruth: two peas in a pod versus onions? Which do you think describes John and Kathy better?

23. How might the terms of magic defined in Kaye's book relate to John and Kathy?

Chapter 21, "The Nature of the Spirit"

24. Within a few hours after John's defeat in the primary, what did Tony Carbo do? What statement does his action make about loyalty in politics? What is the pun in his sarcastic comment to John, "A village is a terrible thing to waste"?

25. What was Lt. Calley's "spin" on wasting the village? What Biblical saying does he quote in trying to intimidate the others into agreed silence on the subject?

Chapter 23, "Where They Looked"

26. Why do tempers flare at the bonfire on the beach? What seems to bother John the most about the simmering accusations that he might have murdered Kathy?

Chapter 25, "Evidence"

27. How does Patience H. C. Mason's observation about veterans' wives fit Kathy?

Chapter 26, "The Nature of the Dark"

28. What trick had John performed to "vanish" from Charlie Company? Why did he think he had a good chance for success?

Chapter 29, "The Nature of the Angle"

29. What is the Northwest Angle? What does it symbolize?

Chapter 30, "Evidence"

30. As it turns out, who dug up the information on John's presence at Thuan Yen? From whom did they obtain John's real name?

English 11 Honors Summer Reading

Animal Farm by George Orwell

Part 1: Patterns

Directions: Revolutions are often characterized by certain types of people and behavior. Read the information below, and apply it to *Animal Farm*. For each, identify which character(s), idea, event, or item from the novel that fits each description below and tell how. **For full credit, provide a direct reference to the text to support your choice.**

1. An unjust or unpopular leader, often one who is seen as oppressive and selfish.
2. A large group of individuals who feel that they have been treated badly.
3. People who supported and did well under the old leaders.
4. Idealistic leader(s) to appeal to the enthusiasm of the masses.
5. Public relations specialists to tend to the leadership image.
6. Materialists who want nothing more than to profit from the revolution.
7. Cynics who believe that, no matter what happens, things will never change for the better.
8. Hard-working, ordinary people who believe in the ideals of the revolution.
9. Secret police used by the leadership to maintain control.
10. A national anthem to evoke patriotic fervor.
11. A revolutionary slogan to keep the spirit at the forefront of thought.
12. Opposition leaders who are eager to take over from the idealists.
13. Ordinary people who just want a decent life and know little of politics.
14. Enemies who oppose the beliefs and policies of the revolution.
15. Undercover agents to report information.

Part 2: Short Response

Directions: Respond to the following in complete and contextual sentences.

1. How do the three main leaders use and abuse power?
 - a. Farmer Jones
 - b. Snowball
 - c. Napoleon
2. Define the term scapegoat. Which character becomes a scapegoat?
3. Which characters in the novel work? What does the novel imply about the value of work?
4. What does the windmill symbolize?
5. Why are the dogs necessary to Napoleon?
6. Why are the sheep necessary?
7. What is the effect of the public executions?
8. How is Squaler related to the power issues in the novel?
9. How does the acquisition of power tend to affect individuals in the novel and in real life?

Part 3: Essay

Directions: In an essay of 3-5 paragraphs, respond to one of the following prompts. ***Be sure to cite specific evidence from the novel to support your response.*** Essay should adhere to MLA format (4 line heading, aligned to the left of the page, an accurate title, 12 pt, Times New Roman or Calibri Font, Double-spaced (if typed), with in-text citations: i.e. (Orwell 56), which indicates the novel, page 56.

1. Write an essay in which you analyze the role of Moses, the raven.
2. Write an essay in which you assess the accuracy of the portrayal of humans in the novel.
3. Write an essay in which you discuss the allegorical meaning of the novel, to include the changes that occur on the farm (i.e. roles, names, rules, etc.) and the outcome in the end.