*South Pasadena High School*

*The English Seminar—AP*

*Arthur Miller*

Death of a Salesman

# Character Analysis—*for discussion:*

## Ben

* the problem of Ben as a real person
* ideas Ben could be said to represent
* his treatment of the Lomans and his sense of family responsibility
* his sense of business and ethics, and the law
* as a representation of part of Willy’s personality

his sense of what is of value in life

## Bernard

* his “image” in high school
* his feelings (in the ‘high school scenes’) about the Lomans and the treatment he receives from them
* his sense of ethics
* his feelings (in the ‘present’) about the Lomans and the treatment he receives from them
* he refrains from critical comments

reveals his love for Biff, despite the latter's having rarely treated him fairly (II, 5)

## Biff

* the changes in his personality (between high school and the present) and in his feelings about Willy and about Linda
* the contrasting ideas of his being ‘lazy’ and ‘lost’
* his feelings about and relationship with Happy
* his attitude toward his future and his plans
* his popularity and attitudes in high school
* his ethical code
* Charley
* as a contrast to Willy

his relationship with Willy

## Happy

* as a foil to Biff
* his aspirations and delusions
* his values and feelings about himself
* his ethical code

his relations with Willy and Linda

## Howard

* his relationship with Willy

his values

## Linda

* her attitude toward and treatment of Willy
* her sons’ perception of her
* her attitudes toward and treatment of her sons
* her role in the family
* her values

questions about her character in the last scenes

## Willy

* the reality of Willy in the ‘present’
* his increasing distress
* as a dreamer
* his effect on his sons and theirs on him
* his values
* the values of the Willy in the ‘high school scenes’
* his delusions and bravado
* his view of himself
* his affair
* his relationship with Charley
* his unusual behavior

the contradictions in his character and behavior