

also focuses on what happens when you try to control aspects of your life that you have no power over; your talents in this case. ~~Phillip is determined to succeed in the American dream when he actually has no skills as a salesman and isn't a family man either as he has an affair.~~ Willy Loman is determined to succeed in the American dream ~~when he actually has no skills as a salesman and isn't a family man either as he has an affair.~~ This causes the breakdown of his family, ~~distances them from himself, as Phillip does with Sylvia.~~ A0f.

Phillip comes across as jealous of Hymen; "Why does it have to be him?" "since you come around she looks down ~~at~~ at me like a miserable piece of shit." Hymen is everything that Phillip isn't, he is confident, comfortable in his own skin, flirtatious and sexual. Miller uses his character as a contrast, ~~A02.~~ highlighting Phillip's lack of warmth, confusion with his identity and obsession with his Jewishness. His cold attitude and lack of empathy comes from his lack of understanding of his own feelings. Therefore he cannot begin to understand the feelings of others. This is explicitly shown when he has to foreclose a property, Sylvia is concerned for the family who are going to lose it. "Oh that's sad. Are they nice people?" While Phillip views the whole thing as a business transaction, "People are people." ~~A02.~~

The setting of the play illuminates Phillips lack of empathy, which ~~causes~~ causes the distant relationship with Phillip and Sylvia. The play is set in 1938, just before the war when the persecution of the Jews was rife. When asked about what he thought of the brutal treatment of the Jews, Phillip reply's "My wife is very upset about that" indicating that it does not upset him. The play was written in 1944 during the Bosnian War. The audience would have deeply understood the cruelty and immoral actions that happened, the suffering of the Jews, as the same was happening to the Croats by the Serbs in Bosnia. A04.