

Phillips confusion about his identity is what prevents him empathising with others, his constant struggle with his Jewishness forces Sylvia to change her personality, not to talk about it, just in case she upsets Phillip. This results in a mechanical relationship with no substance. He did not want to discuss his problems for fear of seeming weak and losing control; "Phillip always thought he was supposed to be the Rock of Gibraltar" but Sylvia saw that he was making it all up. She knew that if Phillip realises she thought him weak, it would destroy him, so she kept it to herself which bred resentment. This silence led to her feeling a loss of her own identity as a result of Phillip's struggle with his; "I can't find myself in my life."

This was what the relationship was built on; secrets and a constant battle with identity. ~~We know~~ ~~we know Phillip was confused~~. Arthur Miller's plays were commonly focused on identity, "A view from the bridge" shows how keeping something secret, like Eddie's love for Catherine will never work, it will break apart your life, the way Phillip's inner feelings he refused to share, ripped apart his relationship with Sylvia. A02. A04.

We know that Phillip is confused about his Jewishness because near the end of the play he reveals to Hymen that "some days, I feel like going and sitting in the Schul with the old men . . . and be a full-time Jew the rest of my life", "And ~~yes~~ other times . . . yes, I could almost kill them." This ambiguous feeling towards the Jews is reflected in the decisions Phillip makes and the things he says.

For example, against Sylvia's wishes he arranges his son to go in the army to become the "first Jewish general in the United States Army" and is proud of this, as well as being the only Jew working for his company. He believes that they are persecuted ~~so~~ ~~would~~ rather therefore both these facts are A02