

Running Head: Book Review

Review of a book named, "Death of Salesman"

[Name of the Writer]

[Name of the Institute]

Introduction

The proposed formal essay intends to critically review a book named "Death of Salesman" written by Arthur Miller. The prominent themes of the book were related to disappointments and failure. The story of the book revolves around a salesman, Willy Loman, whose life and failures were described in a success-driven society.

Critical Review

Question 1: Failure in Professional life

Willy Loman was a salesman who spent a considerable amount of time dreaming about America. His sense of self-worth was declining because he relied on his white neighbors, and also pleaded with his boss. He failed to avail of the opportunities of life as he thought that making contacts and fame are the keys to success but professionally, the salesman outlived his fame and contacts. Willy highlighted three elements of success, which were, “*be well-liked, have a smile and shoeshine*” (Miller, 1968). Eventually, he was failed to generate more money and luxurious life for his kids. Based on these aspects, I believe that Willy was a failed professional leader because of his false philosophy that success comes through personality, luck, and popularity instead of hard work and tireless ambition. As in this world, merely those workers can survive and be respected who has money; hence, with his philosophy, he can merely be regarded as a failed professional.

Question 2: Failure in Personal life

Besides professional and financial failure, Willy can also be regarded as a failure in a social, moral, and personal manner because his faults also hit his family strongly. For example, when his son failed in Math, Willy said, “*he would talk to his teacher, and she*

would understand" (Miller, 1968). This indicated that Willy perceived that he could resolve issues by influencing people with his charm and popularity, which is not true. The relationship between Willy and his son was deteriorating because pursuing his American dream, he had become selfish. On the other hand, he cheated with his wife by having an inter-marital affair. For example, Willy gifted her girlfriend, which led his son to feel that his father was treating a stranger leaving his poor family behind. This evident that Willy is a failure as a leader in his personal and social life as he destroyed himself as well as his family. In my perception, it is not wrong to want facilities for the family, but the approaches taken by Willy were extremely wrong and ineffective. For instance, he took great debt for buying these luxuries. Therefore, Willy along with his family faced emotional and financial stress.

Question 3: Sense of empathy for Willy

Several times, in the play, I felt empathy for Willy as he met with disappointment throughout his life. For example, the salesman was far from being respected because he did not succeed, and did not have money to have a luxurious life. From this perspective, he became a weaker member of the society, who was not fittest for survival. Willy stated, "*People will like you if they found to popular, and this will make your life*" (Miller, 1968). He also believed that he would also become successful like his brother but he merely ended up with great failures. His present and future were continuously affected by his past defaults – this shows his dumb luck. It was not clear to him why he always failed in his social, professional, and personal life. This reveals his powerlessness to control his life. Sadly, his dream of success has remained a dream. Above all, it was heartbreaking when Willy recalled the time when he was progressing at work and was loved by his son. In the end, the salesman killed himself rather than accepting his bitter reality. According to Willy, "*I would only be*

valued if I die because of insurance policy" (Miller, 1968). In this way, he sacrificed his life for his family.

Conclusion

In the proposed articles, three questions regarding Willy (a central character of Miller's book) were answered. However, it can be concluded that the author ironically portrayed the impact of illusions and dreams of someone, which ended with horrible outcomes. His false philosophies were a prominent barrier that resisted him to get success as a leader of his personal and professional life.

References

Miller, A. (1968). Death of a salesman: certain private conversations in two acts and a requiem.