Arthur Miller - *Death of a Salesman*

1. → born in NYC 1915
   → parents were storekeepers in ladies wear
   → lived in the Jewish Garment District
   → parents were ruined in 1930’s Depression
   * The Great Depression would influence Miller’s political ideology

   "This desire to move on, to metamorphose, or perhaps it is a talent for being contemporary-was given, to me as a life's inevitable and rightful condition."

   → Inspiration from life’s experience - Write what you know
   → The ability to adapt so as to Survive.

2. Graduated high school 1932 and worked at an auto parts warehouse to earn money for college.

3. After reading Dostoevsky’s *The Brothers Karamazov*, he decided to become a writer.

4. Attended University of Michigan 1934, graduated 1938
   Became a radio script writer for Columbia workshop (CBS) and Cavalcade of America (NBC)
5. Football injury left him out of the draft.

6. 1940 he married college sweetheart, Mary Slattery (Catholic - 2 children).

7. 1944 Broadway play *The Man Who had all the Luck* 4 nights

8. 1947 *All My Sons* - factory owner who sells faulty aircraft parts during WWII
   - won New York Critics's Circle Award and two Tonys

9. 1944 toured army camps for screenplay *the Story of G.I. Joe*

10. *Focus* (novel) anti-semitism

11. 1949 *Death of a Salesman* brings international fame and widespread critical acclaim

12. 1950's comes under the eye of the Congressional Committee investigating communist influences in the arts and in the State Department (HUAC)

   FBI had read *The Hook* - about a militant union organizer
   - denied a passport to attend Brussels premiere of *The Crucible* (1953)

"Inflamed human imagination, the poetry of suggestion"

The Crucible—an allegory for

Senator Joseph Mccarthy i Committee of
House Un American Activities
   → witch hunt for Socialist, and Communists in the State Department
   and then in Entertainment
1952-Broke with Elia Kazan - named names of eight former Socialists / Communists (Hollywood Eight)
  -Kasan was not blacklisted..
  -Miller becomes a hero of the left
* A View from the Bridge. - about incest, love, jealousy and betrayal
  - attack on Kasan
* On the Waterfront. -Kasan's counter that naming names was justified.
  - 1956 - Marries Marilyn Monroe
    - divorced 1961 - she dies 1962
* Is politically active for his whole life*
  - 1965 Elected President of PEN
  -1968 Delegate for Eugene Mccarthy (Demo)
  - Died of heart failure Feb 10, 2005

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Tragedy and the Common Man - Miller

1. The most essential quality for a hero or heroine is...
   => The need to be ready to sacrifice his or her physical life to secure his or her personal dignity

2. In contrast to Aristotle, who felt that the hero should fulfill the needs of an idealized principle
   - Miller recognized that the individual really had no control or influence over the processes of the society and its powerful institutions
     that .. the individual had to first recognize his or her value as an individual

* Questions or beliefs about class and status are important in setting the context, but not in determining the essential value of an individual

Miller's hero in Death of a Salesman is
Willy Loman
nickname - not formal
Loman = "Low man"