

## Honors English

Summer Reading: Miller's *Death of a Salesman*

These questions are designed to help you efficiently spot important features of *Death of a Salesman* as you read it independently. Please answer the questions thoroughly in writing, including specific details (quotes and paraphrases). We will begin the new school year in September discussing these and other issues from the play; be prepared to contribute your ideas and responses to the text in class.

1. How do the elements unique to drama—stage directions, set & scene description, music cues, reliance upon spoken dialogue—impact the effect of the play's themes?
2. To what extent are the characters portrayed sympathetically? Are there nuances and ambiguities in their personalities, or are they merely "types"?
3. To what extent has Miller presented a fair and balanced view of the business world?
4. The chronological shifts and flashbacks in the play are difficult for first time readers to follow. Discuss the relationship between these structural devices and the plays themes.
5. What issues does *Death of a Salesman* explore that, in your estimation, are still important to contemporary readers?