

The definition of ordinary

with no special or distinctive features; normal.

This goes without saying that what is said to be ordinary, is a subjective matter and changes from one person to the next.

VALUES

How can one identify the values of an ordinary man when there are no such criteria that define an ordinary man. Are the values of an ordinary man to grow up ordinary and have an ordinary family; a wife, 2.4 children, a home and a white picket fence? If this is what constitutes the values an ordinary man then Willy is an ordinary man. What Willy also depicts is the struggle for those caught between the dualities of the ordinary man and those struggling with mental illnesses, which were yet to be discovered.

Commentary - "Tragedy and the Common Man."

P. xxxviii "Willy Loman is designed to be a protagonist capable of sustaining the scope, depth and sheer dramatic tension traditionally associated with legendary figures from the grand theatrical past"

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ORDINARY MAN.

As is true with most of Arthur Miller's plays, he wishes to teach his audience, force them to confront something 'wrong' with society. Thus, presenting Willy Loman as an 'ordinary man' is pivotal to the play. Having the protagonist be an ordinary man allows the audience to see and become aware of how they have become entangled in the snare of Consumerism or grandeur of the American dream.

"What value can one ordinary man have in a magical world? What can a mortal bring to the affairs of immortals?"

Insight. Honor. Morality. Perspective.

Because nothing makes love and life matter more than the knowledge that some day it must end."

– Simon R. Green, Drinking Midnight Wine



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Page 1 of 1.

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