1. Re-read in Act 1 from “Willy” to “but you’re sixty years old. They can’t expect you to keep travelling every week.” How does Miller establish the problems of Willy’s character in this extract?

Introduction

* Author and Title
* Refer to question.

Paragraph 2 *(outlines Willy’s problems and include quotes to help explain how miller shows this.)*

* Linda’s worrying and questioning of what happened to Willy.

“Why? What happened? Did something happen Willy?”

“Don’t you feel well?”

“You didn’t smash up the car did you?”

* Willy’s pride, financial troubles, past

“ In 1928 I had a big year I averaged 170 dollars a week in commissions”

“ I put thirty four years in this firm Howard and now I can’t pay my insurance”

Both these quotes link back to Willy’s financial troubles, and also his past that are outlined in the passage.

* Linda’s protectiveness (how she makes up excuses for him)
* Willy’s State of Mind

“I have such thoughts, such strange thoughts”

This links to the various times in the play where he has flashbacks and talks to himself. This could link to his obsession with the past

Paragraph 3 *(themes throughout the play of Willy’s problems)*

* Faulty notion of success
* American Dream
* Career Success
* Illusion versus Reality (how Willy was driving along then all of a sudden he forgets that he’s driving)

Paragraph 4 (Relationships with his family)

* First you could talk about how Willy treats Linda in the extract. (Kind of dismissal and angry although he can be calm at random times)
* You could then go on to quote how this reminds us of how he treats his sons- (With a kind of cold disappointment and anger at Biff)
* You could also link this to the affair by saying that Willy feels that his family has failed so he tries to start over with ‘The woman’.

Conclusion

In this you basically conclude whatever points you made in the previous paragraphs.

**Helpful things to remember**

* In order to get high marks for this question you cannot afford to just quote from within the extract. In order to show off your knowledge of the text you have to quote from other points in the play then link it back to the extract.
* Also you could give your opinions on how the methods that Arthur Miller uses to describe Willy’s problems affect your opinion of the play or its characters.
* You must also remember to **Always** link whatever point you make back to the question and don’t forget to back up your points with quotes from the play.