When life is running you down and things do not seem to be going your way sometimes you just have to take some time, relax and be with your family. When school gets crazy and work runs me down I try to go home for a weekend as soon as I can. There is something about being at the house where I grew up and have some of my mom’s home cooked food that makes me feel a whole lot better. When I come back to State College after one of those weekends I feel refreshed and ready to go.

In Arthur Miller’s *Death of a Salesman* the main character, Willy Loman starts off by having probably the worst day of his life. While driving home from the New England he starts to lose focus and begins driving off of the road. He comes home to find that his oldest son has come home and Willy realizes that this son is a lazy bum and he also realizes that he himself can no longer focus on the job at hand and his wife convinces him to take some time off and try to get a job closer to home.

Miller shows that coming home and being with your family can have a big impact on your personal health. He was born to Jewish immigrants and this shows in the setting of the story. The Loman’s house is in the middle of a couple towering apartments that have ruined what was once a beautiful neighborhood. The main characters are the members of Willy’s family including his wife Linda and his two sons, the oldest, Biff and his younger brother Happy. The plot in the beginning of the story sets up what kind of man Willy is and how loving and supportive his wife is even when his children have not lived up to his expectations. The story starts out with images of the beautiful New England country side and how the weather feels up there. There is not much of a narrator in this story other than in the beginning to set up where the story takes place.

Going home is what Miller did in this play where the setting is in New York and when he was young his family lived in Manhattan and the Brooklyn. Miller went to the University of Michigan for college and then traveled back to New York for work just like Willy who had to travel back and forth to and from work. Finally Miller tries to show the average working class people in his plays while his parents were working immigrants.

When Willy describes the high apartment buildings that surround their house I will look up while keeping my focus in the right direction. While Willy is describing the sun and the wind that was hitting his face I will do it with my eyes shut and my face raised a little bit as if it was hitting me. Finally, when he talks about the grass that does not grow I will look down and kind of fan out with my hand. All of these relate to how he needs to take some time to himself and how he is unhappy with how his life is going.
Since there is no narrator in my section I will just use my voice while setting up the scene. As far as Willy’s character he will have a quiet strained voice to show his age and how tired he is. With Linda I will give her a higher calm voice to show her stability. There is one situation where their son Biff enters and has a line. Here I will set to the middle and give him a more question more lazy voice, almost a “surfer” voice to show his laziness.

There is one point where Willy says that he is tired to death. I will slow that down and emphasize death as a means of foreshadowing. In another section he states that he has thoughts, such strange thoughts and I will rub my eyes to show his anguish. Finally when his wife tries to bring up him back up out of a bad mood I will take a pause and make it really energetic.

When the narrator speaks I will stand off to the side and look back and forth across the audience instead of focusing on one side or the other. I will try to keep everybody’s attention so that I can get the setting across clearly so that the audience can understand the story more clearly.

Throughout the presentation I will try to show the audience how the characters feel and I will try to foreshadow a little bit so that the audience will be intrigued to see the rest of the play. I did not know which section of the play to choose so I choose the opening scene as a teaser.
Works Cited
