

Comparison between Keller and Chris

All My Sons, written by Arthur Miller, is a play that depicts the American society during the world war and the Great Depression period. It shows how people have become more materialistic. They care about nothing except their own business. People want to succeed on the expense of others. The American dream has become something stupid and ridiculous that nobody wants to fulfil any more. Keller and Chris are two main characters who shed light on one of the main themes of the play which is responsibility towards others.

On the one hand, Keller is a selfish person who cares about nobody except himself. He worries about nothing except his own business. He is only interested in money. He has a great ability in ignoring things. He always says that he ignores what he wants to ignore. He does not feel guilty about the death of the 21 pilots after giving the army the cracked cylinder heads. He totally blames Steve, his partner, on this crime. He does not feel any kind of responsibility toward either the 21 pilots or Steve who is in jail instead of him. He regards himself as a hero in a cinematic way. After his return from the trail, no one believes that he is innocent. However 14 months later, he has become a great businessman who is treated well by everybody as if nothing has happened. After reading Larry's letter, he starts to feel responsible for everything he has done and also for the death of his son. He finds out that he has done a horrible mistake by caring only about his business and his money. Then he shoots himself because he cannot bear losing everything he owns by going to jail.

On the other hand, Chris is utterly different from his father. He is a kind hearted man who is always worried about people. He sacrifices for the sake of the others. After his return from war, he feels that it is wrong to be alive while others are dying. He feels that all their money comes out of war and it is a sin to take it. He always tells Keller that the pilots who have died in the war are not pigs but they are human beings just like them. This shows that he feels responsible for them. He thinks so highly of his father. He regards him as a hero. He always calls him Joe McGuts which means a man of courage. He can hardly believe that his father has committed such a crime. He feels that he has been cheated by his father for all his life. He does not want to believe that his father is the only one responsible for the death of the 21 pilots. This shock makes him leave the house. He wants to live his life as he wants after his failure in fulfilling the American dream. This shows how idealistic Chris is. He is lost in the new world that lacks idealism as an effect of war.

This shows that both Keller and Chris are considered to be the most important characters in "All My Sons". Each of them has his own way of thinking. Keller is regarded as the irresponsible person while Chris is the responsible and caring one. This shows how war has affected the people and has made them more selfish and irresponsible.

