

All My Sons

All My Sons, written by Arthur Miller, is a play that depicts the American society during the world war and the Great Depression period. People have become more materialistic. They care about nothing except their own businesses. The title, All My Sons, is quite significant. It sheds light upon one of the main themes of the play which is responsibility towards others. People have become more irresponsible. Nobody feels responsible towards nobody. They want to survive even on the expense of the others and without caring about anybody else except themselves.

On the one hand, Keller is an irresponsible person. He totally blames Steve for the death of the twenty one pilots, although he is the one who has committed such a crime. He believes that he has only done that in order to rescue his business. He feels unrelated to those pilots and he does not feel responsible for their death. He throws the whole responsibility upon Steve. Being under pressure makes him feel confused. He cannot think about anything except rescuing himself by lying about the whole issue. This shows how irresponsible he is towards others including his own family.

On the other hand, Chris is a responsible caring person. He is willing to sacrifice for the sake of others. He feels responsible towards his family and the people he loves. He says that in war everybody is responsible towards everybody. They sacrifice for the sake of others. They die for each other. There is no place for selfish people. Unlike his father, Chris feels guilty for the death of the twenty one pilots. He tells his father that they are not pigs but they are human beings just like them. Chris does not want to believe that his father has killed the twenty one pilots and also Larry. He cannot bear the shock any longer, so he leaves the house. However, his sense of responsibility towards his family makes him return back home. This shows how Chris is different from his father.

After reading Larry's letter, Keller totally changes into a different person. He realises that he has killed his own son. He can hardly believe that he has committed such a crime in a moment of panic. He feels that he has lost everything, even his family. He starts to feel responsible towards those pilots. He feels that they are all his sons and it is not just Larry who is his son. He tells Chris that he is responsible for the death of his sons, even though he does not mean to kill them. His guilty feelings grew more and more till he decided to commit suicide and to shoot himself in order to escape from the ugly reality. This shows that his fear of losing his business has made him lose his own son. This also reveals that his sense of responsibility has changed from being irresponsible into a fully responsible person. He feels responsible for the death of the twenty one pilots and his son as well.

This indicates that the title, All My sons, is a symbol. It represents the twenty one pilots who are killed in the war and whom Keller considers his own sons after the truth is revealed.