

## **Miller's dramatic art in All My Sons**

All My Sons is a play written by Arthur Miller. It is a tragedy that discusses some social issues in the American society. Miller comments on the nature of this society and exposes the ills of it. He uses some important tools and techniques like Ibsen in order to convey his message.

To begin with, Miller uses **flash backs and flash forwards**. This means that the play does not have a chronological order. In other words, the story is over before the play begins. Therefore, time is spent in bringing the past into present by means of flash back and flash forward. The play begins after three years of Larry's suicide. The truth is now going to come to light to make everybody know that Larry has committed suicide and Keller is guilty of killing twenty one pilots.

In fact, Miller divides his play into **three acts**; each one represents a dramatic significance include high suspense. The first act represents the main characters and the exposition as well. The second one is portrays the conflict and the third is the catastrophe. Miller makes use of three unities which are unity of place, time and action. This means that the play happens over two hours in the same location centering on one action that of the revelation of the truth concerning Larry's death.

Miller also uses **significance of names**. The use of names is very significant. The name Chris comes to Christopher, a reference to Christ. The Christ represents the prophet who wants humanity to be perfect and to keep morals. This conveys the theme that Chris wants everybody to be idealistic. Moreover, the name Keller gives the impression and sounds as if he is a killer. This suits Keller's character as he has killed the innocent pilots.

**Symbolism** is a very important technique that Miller uses in order to make his play looks realistic. A horoscope is a symbol of the humans who always cling to superficiality in order to provide them with hope. Moreover, Kate's dream symbolizes necessity in life which needs to be fulfilled. In addition, the broken tree symbolises a hope that will never be fulfilled. In addition, a star can symbolize a wish which is unreachable. In other words, there is a contrast between the lightness of a dream or a star and the darkness of reality. Another important symbol is Larry's letter; the letter acts as a climax with a revelation of the ugly truth. It is also a symbol of a message that aims to make criminals feel guilty. Moreover, jail and bars are symbols of guns and this is a foreshadowing for the tragic end.

**Irony** is a very clear element which is found throughout the play. It is ironic to find Keller plays the role of a criminal because he is a real criminal. In addition, it is very ironic when Ann says "you owe him nothing". However, Keller owes Steve a lot. What is more, there is irony in "dear dead days" because these dead days

will come back in order to make the truth clear. Moreover, George says "I never felt at home anywhere but here", which is very ironic because the owner of this house has destroyed his home and his family as well.

**The stage direction** is one of the clues that Miller uses to make us understand how the characters feel. For instance, *in act one*, Kate sees Larry in her dream. Miller describes her condition when she "raises her hands" which makes the readers feel as if it was real. Moreover, every single movement of the characters is described which adds reality. Another example is when Chris discovers his father's ugly truth of killing the twenty-one pilots. Miller gives us the following stage direction in a "broken whisper" and "he is struck deadly". This is because Chris fails to encounter his father's ugly picture.

In conclusion, Arthur Miller has succeeded in using his tools in order to convey his messages. Moreover, those techniques are very useful for the reader as they make it easier for the reader to understand the plot and the themes.