

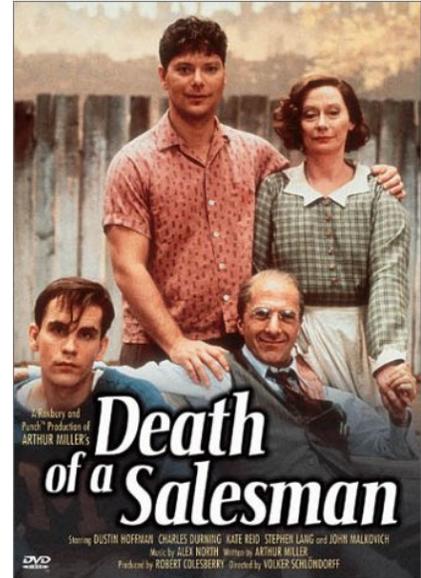
Composition 16 & Final Exam: The Pursuit of Happiness, *Death of a Salesman*, and The American Dream: Dead or Alive?

Essential Question: From a personal, literary, and historical perspective, is the American Dream dead or alive?

The American Dream is the belief that wealth, home ownership, happy family life, and upward social mobility can and should be achieved through hard work, competition, risk-taking, and honesty. In the definition of the American Dream by James Truslow Adams in 1931, "life should be better and richer and fuller for everyone, with opportunity for each according to ability or achievement" regardless of social class or circumstances of birth.

In 1949, Arthur Miller wrote *Death of a Salesman*, in which the American Dream is a fruitless pursuit. Miller doubts in the play that the Dream is as attainable as its proponents suggest, but his thesis is less about whether it can be attained than it is about whether it's even worth attaining. While some of his characters (Charley, Ben, Bernard, Willy's father) attain the illusion of happiness that the dream promises, others like Willy Loman and his sons end up in psychological and emotional ruin, falling tragically out of love with their families, their jobs, and themselves as they flounder in a meaningless and even suicidal competition to reach somebody else's definition of success.

But just because a classic writer from the 1940's feels that the American Dream is dead or worthless doesn't make it so. For every pessimistic vision of the dream, there is an optimistic one, as we see in Will Smith's acclaimed film *The Pursuit of Happiness*, in which hard work and honesty are rewarded and in which family happiness can be found despite marital challenges.



THESIS REFUTATION PROMPT:

Famed financial advisor Suze Orman recently declared, "My only fear in life is what's happening in the United States of America. The American Dream is dead for the majority of America."

Agree or disagree with Orman conclusion about the American Dream. Is the Dream still possible—and is it a Dream worth having?

Support your position by referring to three subtopic areas: personal experiences, dramatic works [*Death of a Salesman*], and current events/case studies.

INTRODUCTION IDEA: Try the quotation technique, beginning with Suze Orman's quotation. Then, summarize in a few sentences what the American Dream is. You can paraphrase ideas underscored and boldfaced in the introductory material at the top of page 1 of this packet or from any other source, including your own head!

Gifted Differentiation: Take the opposing viewpoint and argue that Miller's play actually affirms the values of the American Dream! Many of the same quotes can be used to do this. Should GIEP students prefer to explore another work by Miller, *The Crucible* will be made available for external independent reading and composition detailing its historical and political significance in contrast to *Death of a Salesman's* social significance.

Work Cited

Miller, Arthur. *Death of a Salesman*. Viking Penguin: New York, 1949.

SUBTOPIC IDEA #1 Personal Experiences:

- THE AMERICAN DREAM IS **DEAD**: Explain my shock at the cost of the college I want to attend and how my family cannot afford it, which means that I will be unable to secure the one thing that research claims guarantees a higher income: a college degree.
- THE AMERICAN DREAM IS **ALIVE**: Explain my shock at the cost of college and how my family cannot afford it, which means that I will simply have to do what the American Dream suggests...I don't complain about how unfair life is. Instead, I plan to get several part-time jobs, work my butt off, and save until I have enough money to afford college.

My father's **personal experience** proves to me that the American Dream is **alive**. My father lost his job at a local paper manufacturer five years ago when the corporation outsourced his job to Mexico. Many Americans would argue that this type of job outsourcing is proof that the Dream is dead because so many Americans have lost their jobs to foreign cheap labor willing to work for \$2.00 a day instead of the \$15.00 per hour needed to feed and clothe a family of four in the United States. It is true that millions of high-paying American jobs went overseas and that they will never come back. However, rather than throw in the towel and file for welfare like too many Americans, my dad took out a small loan and attended DuBois Community College to pursue an associate degree in HVAC technology, a skill he knew a little bit about from fixing heating and cooling problems at his outsourced job with MWV. As it turned out, Berrena's Heating and Cooling in Huntingdon hired my dad directly from his DuBois certification program for an internship, which after a year turned into a full-time technician's position at twice the wage he was making at the paper plant. Within two years he had repaid the government Stafford loans that he needed for college training and has saved enough to pay for my first year at Penn State Altoona. My father's story is not unique to me family, all of whom view welfare as a last resort, not as the lifestyle it has become for too many Americans who would rather play sick than sweat an honest day's work. My mother works two jobs—as a secretary by day and three nights a week as a waitress at the Olive Garden. While their jobs do not command six-digit salaries, their work ethic and determination will make a college degree for me possible and open new doors

SUBTOPIC IDEA #2 Dramatic works:

- THE AMERICAN DREAM IS **DEAD**: Discuss how hard work Willy Loman worked yet failed to get rich, how pursuing a family life left him dissatisfied, and how his brother Ben advocated dishonesty as a means to success.
- THE AMERICAN DREAM IS **ALIVE**: Discuss how Bernard and Charley managed to get ahead through hard work and honesty, how Willy may have had a happy family life had he not betrayed his wife and kids, how Willy might have succeeded had he been as honest and as risk-loving as he was hard-working.

Dramatic works like *Death of a Salesman* suggest to some readers that the American Dream is dead, but the play can be read another way as evidence that the Dream **lives on**. After all, the characters who work the hardest in school and who practice virtues like honesty and charity get ahead in Arthur Miller's drama—the ones who take short cuts to hard work, who cheat, and who steal end up failing—as they should. For example,...

SUBTOPIC IDEA #3 Current events or Case Studies:

- THE AMERICAN DREAM IS **DEAD**: Discuss the state of welfare or unemployment, corporate scandals, or how good American jobs have been outsourced.
- THE AMERICAN DREAM IS **ALIVE**: Discuss how an ordinary American beat the odds to strike it rich, famous, or happy through hard work and honesty... like Bill Gates, Taylor Swift, Chris Gardner in *The Pursuit of Happyness*, or Suze Orman herself.

Current events such as the meteoric trajectories of modern celebrities prove that the American Dream is **alive** and well. Consider the rags to riches story of Jim Carrey, who overcame troubling odds to become a household name in comedy. All his jokes aside, the actor grew up in poverty and at twelve years old was forced to get an after-school factory job working eight hours per day. He writes, "My father lost his job when he was fifty-one and that was the real 'wow', the kick in the guts. We lived in a van for a while, and we worked all together as security guards and janitors"(Carrey 32). Instead of embracing the new American Dream of collecting a welfare check, Carrey instead worked low wage stand-up gigs. The pay off--his 2003 film *Bruce Almighty* grossed \$484.6 million. Similarly, Ralph Lauren was not always one of the most recognizable names in fashion. In fact, Lauren dropped out of high school to join the Army Reserve, later starting out in the fashion world as nothing more than a clerk at Brooks Brothers. He eventually worked his way up to a salesman and then started the company Polo with only \$50,000. During the 2010 fiscal year, the company brought in roughly \$5 billion in revenue. Likewise, many do not realize that Oprah Winfrey's childhood was filled with enough turmoil to ensure she would never make it. She spent her early childhood living with her grandmother on a farm in Kosciusko, Mississippi while her unwed teenage mother searched for work. She was reportedly sexually molested at an early age and worked as a housemaid. Determined to succeed, at seventeen Oprah got her first big break when she won the Miss Black Tennessee beauty pageant, launching her into a journalism job in Baltimore. The media mogul is now worth around \$2.7 billion.

Synopsis of Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman*

Biff Loman's future looked bright. A high school quarterback with a scholarship, all he had to do was pass math and his dream would come true, as would his father's dream--to be rich. However, when Biff discovered his father's affair, he was so crushed and angry that he gave up on his dream just to spite his father.

A traveling salesman who worked long hours away from home, Willy had always been his sons' idol. They always sought his approval and as adults tried to get into business without luck. Willy's father and brother Ben had both struck it rich, Ben by sheer luck it turns out, while Willy worked hard and got nowhere. What was the secret, Willy wondered. He started to feel like a failure.

Linda informed the boys that Willy had been wrecking the company car on purpose and attempting to asphyxiate himself with gas, so they both moved home to see if they could help their mother deal with Willy. Over the years, Biff had spent considerable time in jail, and Hap had spent considerable time in the beds of strange women. Neither had fulfilled their father's dream of getting to the top of the business world, and both of them felt personally discontented and empty because of their failures.

Biff suspected that Willy was contemplating suicide either out of guilt over his affair or his sense of failure at never having achieved the American dream of success. Further, Willy was distraught over his sons' never achieving that dream. So Biff and Hap agreed to ask an old acquaintance, Bill Oliver, for a \$10,000 loan to start their own sporting goods company, thereby making Willy's dream come true and squashing his suicidal motives. Willy seemed hopeful when he heard of the plan and even intended to pressure his boss Howard to give him a job closer to home.

Both plans failed. Willy got fired, and Biff, a kleptomaniac, stole Oliver's fountain pen, just as he had stolen merchandise from Oliver when he had worked for him in high school. Plans to celebrate were spoiled, of course, and Willy ultimately killed himself so that Biff could inherit \$20,000 in life insurance money, making his son "successful" in Willy's eyes at last. Willy had hoped that thousands of business associates and friends would attend his funeral that he would die the grand death of a salesman that he once knew. Instead, only a few showed up, and his sons were still lost.

If you miss any days of the DVD, you must read the play out of class at this URL:

http://www.pelister.org/literature/ArthurMiller/Miller_Salesman.pdf

Even though the pages in this *pdf* file are unnumbered, you can hit **Ctrl+F** on your keyboard to locate the two key quotes in the play that will help you find the places in class where we stopped and started:

Day 1: page start of play to page 35 "an honor and a pleasure"

Day 2: page 35 to page 64 "Red Grange"

Day 3: page 64 to end of play on page 105

<p><u>Underline the American Dream value that the passage calls into question.</u></p> <p>The quote may deal with more than one, but focus on just one in your explanation.</p>	<p><u>Explain</u> what [2] quotations per day [8 total] suggest about the death or life of the American Dream value that you identified in the first column.</p>	<p>Fill in <u>all</u> the quotes as Subtopic Proof for Composition 16.</p> <p>You can fill these quotes in while viewing the DVD or when you read the play for homework [if assigned to your class] if you were absent when we searched for the quotes in class.</p>
<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>HARD WORK</u> X • HONESTY • COMPETITION • RISK-TAKING <li style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>lead to...</i> • WEALTH • FAMILY/MARRIAGE • HOME/PROPERTY • SOCIAL MOBILITY 	<p><i>Willy's obsession over physical attractiveness suggests that there are easier, less fair ways to become successful other than working hard ...if this is true, the hard worker will not get the big job he deserves—the woman with the best curves or the man with the strongest jawline will get it.</i></p>	<p>WILLY: “Biff Loman is lost? In the greatest country in the world a young man with such personal <u>attractiveness</u> gets lost? (16).</p>
<p>23: day 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARD WORK • HONESTY • COMPETITION • RISK-TAKING <li style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>lead to...</i> • <u>WEALTH</u> • FAMILY/MARRIAGE • <u>HOME</u>/PROPERTY • SOCIAL MOBILITY 		<p>BIFF: Are you _____, Hap? You’re a _____, aren’t you? Are you content?</p> <p>HAPPY: Hell, no!</p> <p>BIFF: Why? You’re making _____, aren’t you?</p> <p>HAPPY (moving about with energy, expressiveness): All I can do now is wait for the merchandise manager to die. And suppose I get to be merchandise manager? He’s a good friend of mine, and he just built a terrific _____ on Long Island. And he lived there about two months and sold it, and now he’s building another one. He can’t _____ it once it’s finished. And I know that’s just what I’d do. I don’t know what the hell I’m workin’ for. “(23).</p>

<p>23: day 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARD WORK • HONESTY • COMPETITION • RISK-TAKING <i>lead to...</i> • WEALTH • FAMILY/MARRIAGE • HOME/PROPERTY • SOCIAL MOBILITY 		<p>BIFF: “Maybe I oughta get _____. Maybe I oughta get stuck into something. Maybe that’s my trouble. I’m like a boy. I’m not _____, I’m not in business, I just — I’m like a boy.”(23).</p>
<p>25: day 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARD WORK • HONESTY • COMPETITION • RISK-TAKING <i>lead to...</i> • WEALTH • FAMILY/MARRIAGE • HOME/PROPERTY • SOCIAL MOBILITY 		<p>BIFF: I’d like to find a girl — steady, somebody with substance. HAPPY: That’s what I long for. BIFF: Go on! You’d never _____. HAPPY: I would! ... You’re gonna call me a bastard when I tell you this. That girl Charlotte I was with tonight is engaged to be married in five weeks. (<i>He tries on his new hat.</i>) BIFF: No kiddin’! HAPPY: Sure, the guy’s in line for the vice-presidency of the store. I don’t know what gets into me, maybe I just have an overdeveloped sense of _____ or something, but I went and ruined her, and furthermore I can’t get rid of her. And he’s the third executive I’ve done that to. Isn’t that a crummy characteristic? And to top it all, I go to their weddings! (25).</p>
<p>33: day 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARD WORK • HONESTY • COMPETITION • RISK-TAKING <i>lead to...</i> • WEALTH • FAMILY/MARRIAGE • HOME/PROPERTY • SOCIAL MOBILITY 		<p>WILLY: Bernard can get the best marks in school, y’understand, but when he gets out in the _____ world, y’understand, you are going to be five times _____ of him. That’s why I thank Almighty God you’re both built like _____. Because the man who makes an appearance in the business world... is the man who gets ahead.”(33).</p>

<p>37: day 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARD WORK • HONESTY • COMPETITION • RISK-TAKING <li style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>lead to...</i> • WEALTH • FAMILY/MARRIAGE • HOME/PROPERTY • SOCIAL MOBILITY 		<p>LINDA: But you're doing wonderful, dear. You're making seventy to a hundred dollars a week.</p> <p>WILLY: But I gotta be at it ten, twelve hours a _____. Other men — I don't know — they do it easier"(37).</p>
<p>41: day 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARD WORK • HONESTY • COMPETITION • RISK-TAKING <li style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>lead to...</i> • WEALTH • FAMILY/MARRIAGE • HOME/PROPERTY • SOCIAL MOBILITY 		<p>WILLY: "The world is your _____, but you don't crack it open on a _____!"(41).</p>
<p>48: day 1/2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARD WORK • HONESTY • COMPETITION • RISK-TAKING <li style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>lead to...</i> • WEALTH • FAMILY/MARRIAGE • HOME/PROPERTY • SOCIAL MOBILITY 		<p>BEN: "At that age I had a very faulty view of _____, William. I discovered after a few days that I was heading due south, so instead of _____, I ended up in _____"(48).</p>

<p>49: day 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARD WORK • HONESTY • COMPETITION • RISK-TAKING <li style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>lead to...</i> • WEALTH • FAMILY/MARRIAGE • HOME/PROPERTY • SOCIAL MOBILITY 		<p>BEN: “Never fight _____ with a stranger, boy. You’ll never get out of the jungle that way” (49).</p>
<p>50: day 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARD WORK • HONESTY • COMPETITION • RISK-TAKING <li style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>lead to...</i> • WEALTH • FAMILY/MARRIAGE • HOME/PROPERTY • SOCIAL MOBILITY 		<p>WILLY: “You should see the _____ they brought home last week. At least a dozen six-by-tens worth all kinds of _____”(50).</p>
<p>55: day 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARD WORK • HONESTY • COMPETITION • RISK-TAKING <li style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>lead to...</i> • WEALTH • FAMILY/MARRIAGE • HOME/PROPERTY • SOCIAL MOBILITY 		<p>BIFF: “Stop making excuses for him! He always, always _____ the floor with you. Never had an ounce of _____ for you.</p> <p>HAPPY: He’s always had respect for...</p> <p>BIFF: What the hell do you know about it?”(55).</p>
<p>56: day 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARD WORK • HONESTY • COMPETITION • RISK-TAKING <li style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>lead to...</i> • WEALTH • FAMILY/MARRIAGE • HOME/PROPERTY • SOCIAL MOBILITY 		<p>LINDA: “He works for a company _____ years this March, opens up un heard-of territories to their trademark, and now in his old age they take his _____ away.”(56).</p>

<p>68: day 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARD WORK • HONESTY • COMPETITION • RISK-TAKING <li style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>lead to...</i> • WEALTH • FAMILY/MARRIAGE • HOME/PROPERTY • SOCIAL MOBILITY 		<p>HAPPY: I'm gonna get _____, Mom. I wanted to tell you.</p> <p>LINDA: Go to _____, dear.</p> <p>HAPPY (<i>going</i>): I just wanted to tell you.</p> <p>WILLY: Keep up the good work" (68).</p>
<p>82: day 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARD WORK • HONESTY • COMPETITION • RISK-TAKING <li style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>lead to...</i> • WEALTH • FAMILY/MARRIAGE • HOME/PROPERTY • SOCIAL MOBILITY 		<p>WILLY: "You can't eat the _____ and throw the peel away-- a man is not a _____"(82).</p>
<p>85: day 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARD WORK • HONESTY • COMPETITION • RISK-TAKING <li style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>lead to...</i> • WEALTH • FAMILY/MARRIAGE • HOME/PROPERTY • SOCIAL MOBILITY 		<p>LINDA: "You're doing well _____, Willy!</p> <p>BEN (<i>to Linda</i>): Enough for what, my dear?</p> <p>LINDA (frightened of Ben and angry at him): Don't say those things to him! Enough to be happy right here, right now. (To Willy, while Ben laughs.) Why must everybody _____ the world? You're well liked, and the boys love you."(85).</p>
<p>92: day 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARD WORK • HONESTY • COMPETITION • RISK-TAKING <li style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>lead to...</i> • WEALTH • FAMILY/MARRIAGE • HOME/PROPERTY • SOCIAL MOBILITY 		<p>WILLY: I'm overjoyed to see how you made the _____, Bernard, overjoyed. It's an encouraging thing to see a young man, really--really...what's, what's the _____?"(92).</p>

<p>120-121: day 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARD WORK • HONESTY • COMPETITION • RISK-TAKING <li style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>lead to...</i> • WEALTH • FAMILY/MARRIAGE • HOME/PROPERTY • SOCIAL MOBILITY 		<p>WILLY: “She’s _____ to me, Biff, I was lonely, I was terribly lonely. BIFF: You gave her Mama’s _____!”(120-121).</p>
<p>131: day 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARD WORK • HONESTY • COMPETITION • RISK-TAKING <li style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>lead to...</i> • WEALTH • FAMILY/MARRIAGE • HOME/PROPERTY • SOCIAL MOBILITY 		<p>BIFF: “We never told _____ for ten minutes in this house” (131).</p>
<p>131: day 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARD WORK • HONESTY • COMPETITION • RISK-TAKING <li style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>lead to...</i> • WEALTH • FAMILY/MARRIAGE • HOME/PROPERTY • SOCIAL MOBILITY 		<p>BIFF: “You know why I had no address for three months? I _____ a suit in Kansas City and I was in jail. (<i>To Linda, who is sob- bing.</i>) Stop crying. I’m through with it. (<i>Linda turns away from them, her hands covering her face.</i>) WILLY: I suppose that’s my fault! BIFF: I _____ myself out of every good job since high school!”(131).</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">132: day 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARD WORK • HONESTY • COMPETITION • RISK-TAKING <li style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>lead to...</i> • WEALTH • FAMILY/MARRIAGE • HOME/PROPERTY • SOCIAL MOBILITY 		<p>BIFF: “No! Nobody’s hanging himself, Willy! I ran down eleven flights with a pen in my hand today. And suddenly I stopped, you hear me? And in the middle of that office building, do you hear this? I stopped in the middle of that building and I saw — the sky. I saw the things that I love in this world. The work and the food and time to sit and smoke. And I looked at the pen and said to myself, what the hell am I grabbing this for? Why am I trying to _____ what I don’t want to be? What am I doing in an office, making a contemptuous, begging fool of myself, when all I want is out there, waiting for me the minute I say I know _____ I am! Why can’t I say that, Willy?”(132).</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">133: day 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARD WORK • HONESTY • COMPETITION • RISK-TAKING <li style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>lead to...</i> • WEALTH • FAMILY/MARRIAGE • HOME/PROPERTY • SOCIAL MOBILITY 		<p>BIFF “(<i>crying, broken</i>): Will you let me go, for Christ’s sake? Will you take that phony _____ and burn it before something happens?”(133).</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">138: day 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARD WORK • HONESTY • COMPETITION • RISK-TAKING <li style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>lead to...</i> • WEALTH • FAMILY/MARRIAGE • HOME/PROPERTY • SOCIAL MOBILITY 		<p>BIFF: “There were a lot of nice days. When he’d come home from a trip; or on Sundays, making the stoop; finishing the cellar; putting on the new porch; when he built the extra bathroom; and put up the garage. You know something, Charley, there’s more of _____ in that front stoop than in all the _____ he ever made”(138).</p>

<p>138: day 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARD WORK • HONESTY • COMPETITION • RISK-TAKING <li style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>lead to...</i> • WEALTH • FAMILY/MARRIAGE • HOME/PROPERTY • SOCIAL MOBILITY 		<p>BIFF: “Charley, the man didn’t _____ who he was”(138).</p>
<p>138: day 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARD WORK • HONESTY • COMPETITION • RISK-TAKING <li style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>lead to...</i> • WEALTH • FAMILY/MARRIAGE • HOME/PROPERTY • SOCIAL MOBILITY 		<p>BIFF: “He had the _____ dreams. All, all, wrong”(138).</p>
<p>138-139: day 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARD WORK • HONESTY • COMPETITION • RISK-TAKING <li style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>lead to...</i> • WEALTH • FAMILY/MARRIAGE • HOME/PROPERTY • SOCIAL MOBILITY 		<p>HAPPY: “All right, boy. I’m gonna show you and everybody else that Willy Loman did not die in vain. He had a good dream. It’s the only dream you can have — to come out _____ man”(138-9).</p>
<p>139: day 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARD WORK • HONESTY • COMPETITION • RISK-TAKING <li style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>lead to...</i> • WEALTH • FAMILY/MARRIAGE • HOME/PROPERTY • SOCIAL MOBILITY 		<p>LINDA: “Willy, dear, I can’t cry. Why did you do it? I search and search and I search, and I can’t understand it, Willy. I made the last payment on the _____ today. Today, dear. And there’ll be nobody _____”(139).</p>

PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS

30 POINTS: For each of the 15 passages from the film, fill in the blanks for one point; for another point, circle the aspect of Chris Gardner's struggle with the American Dream that the quotation best seems to reflect in his life:

1

CHRIS: [to stockbroker with a red Ferrari] Man, I got two questions for you: _____do you do? And _____do you do it? [**wealth, happy family, social mobility, a home**]

2

CHRIS: Linda, that is what I am trying to do. This is what I'm trying to do for my _____... for you and for Christopher. [**wealth, happy family, social mobility, a home**]

3

CHRIS: I was waiting for Witter Resource head Jay Twistle... ..whose name sounded so delightful, like he'd give me a ____ and a hug. I just had to show him I was good with _____ and good with _____. [**wealth, happy family, social mobility, a home**]

4

CHRIS: It was right then that I started thinking about Thomas Jefferson.....the Declaration of Independence....and the part about our right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. And I remember thinking: How did he know to put the " _____ " part in there? That maybe happiness is something that we can only pursue. And maybe we can actually never have it....no matter what. [**working hard/determination, risk-taking, competing, being honest**]

5

CHRIS: Get the hell out of here. Christopher's staying with me. You're the one that dragged us down. You hear me? - You are so _____.

LINDA: I'm just not happy!

CHRIS: Then go _____happy, Linda! Just go _____ happy. But Christopher's living with me. [**wealth, happy family, social mobility, a home**] [**working hard/determination, risk-taking, competing, being honest**]

6

CHRIS: I've been sitting there for the last half-hour....trying to come up with a story that would explain my being here dressed like this. And I wanted to come up with a story that would demonstrate qualities.....that I'm sure you all admire here, like _____ or diligence. Team-playing, something. And I couldn't think of anything. So the _____ is... ..I was arrested for failure to pay parking tickets. [**working hard/determination, risk-taking, competing, being honest**]

7

INTERVIEWER: Jay says you're pretty _____. He's been waiting outside the front of the building....with some 40-pound gizmo for over a month. [**working hard/determination, risk-taking, competing, being honest**]

8

CHRIS: There was no _____. Not even a reasonable promise of a job. One intern was hired at the end of the program from a pool of 20. And if you weren't that guy.....you couldn't even apply the six months' training.....to another brokerage. The only resource I would have for six months.....would be my six scanners, which I could still try to sell. If I sold them all, maybe we might get by. [**working hard/determination, risk-taking, competing, being honest**]

CHRIS: Hey, Dad. I'm going pro. I'm going pro.

SON: Okay.

CHRIS: Yeah, I don't know, you know. You'll probably be about as good as I was. That's kind of the way it works, you know. I was _____ average. You know, so you'll probably ultimately rank...somewhere around there, you know, so...I really... You'll excel at a lot of things, just not this. I don't want you shooting this ball all day and night. - All right?

CHRIS: Hey. Don't ever let somebody tell you.....you can't do something. Not even me. - All right?

SON: All right.

CHRIS: You got a _____...you gotta protect it. People can't do something themselves.....they wanna tell you that you can't do it. If you want something, go get it. Period. [**working hard/determination, risk-taking, competing, being honest**]

CHRISTOPHER: There was a man who was drowning, and a boat came, and the man on the boat said "Do you need help?" and the man said "God will save me". Then another boat came and he tried to help him, but he said "God will save me", then he drowned and went to Heaven. Then the man told God, "God, why didn't you save me?" and God said "I sent you _____, you _____!"

If this joke suggests that God will only help you if you try to help yourself [like Chris who tries, unlike his wife Linda who drowns], then which goal of the American Dream of success does the joke seem to confirm? [**working hard/determination, risk-taking, competing, being honest**]

BOSS: Some of you are here because you know somebody. Some of you are here because you think you're somebody. There's _____ guy in here who's gonna be somebody. That person's gonna be the guy....who can turn *this* into *this*: \$800,000 in commission dollars. [**wealth, happy family, social mobility, a home**]

CHRIS: It was simple. _____ number of calls equals X number of prospects. X number of prospects equals X number of customers. X number of customers equals X number of dollars.....in the company' pocket. [**wealth, happy family, social mobility, a home**] [**working hard/determination, risk-taking, competing, being honest**]

BOSS: Your board exam. Last year, we had an intern score a 96.4 percent on the written exam. He wasn't chosen. It's not a simple pass/fail. It's an evaluation tool we use to separate applicants. Be safe, score _____. [**working hard/determination, risk-taking, competing, being honest**]

CHRIS: Whoever brought in the most _____ after six months was usually hired. We were all working our way up call sheets to sign clients. From the bottom to the top. From the doorman to the CEO. They'd stay till 7, but I had Christopher. I had to do in _____ hours what they do in nine. In order not to waste any time... ..I wasn't hanging up the phone in between calls. I realized that by not hanging up the phone... ..I gained another eight minutes a day. I wasn't drinking water... ..so I didn't 'waste any time in the _____. But even doing all this.....after two months, I still didn't have time to work my way up a sheet. [**working hard/determination, risk-taking, competing, being honest**]

MINISTER: The important thing about that freedom train.....is it's got to climb _____. We all have to deal with mountains. [**working hard/determination, risk-taking, competing, being honest**]

Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*: How Power Corrupts: 40 points

- What's Parris's job?
 - Governor
 - Judge
 - Minister
 - Bailiff
- What's Parris catch his niece doing in the forest?
 - running away from home
 - dancing naked
 - reading Catholic tracts
 - conducting a black mass
- Elizabeth Proctor fired Abigail because Abigail
 - was too proud
 - didn't work hard enough
 - dressed like a whore
 - having sex with John Proctor
- Whom does Parris ask to come to Salem?
 - Judge Danforth
 - Reverend Hale
 - Tituba
 - John Proctor
- What kind of government exists in Salem?
 - democracy
 - theocracy
 - monarchy
 - plutocracy
- Who's the first character Abigail accuses?
 - Tituba
 - John Proctor
 - Reverend Hale
 - Mary Warren
- What does Mrs. Putnam blame on witchcraft?
 - her husband's cancer.
 - the deaths of her infants.
 - bad weather
 - raids by Indians
- After the trial, Mary Warren gives Elizabeth a
 - cake
 - bonnet
 - kiss
 - doll
- What news does Mary Warren bring from Salem?
 - that someone accused Elizabeth
 - that the witch trials have ended
 - that someone accused John
 - that Reverend Hale is ill
- Proctor complains that Parris' sermons
 - are focused on money
 - are too long
 - are borderline heretical
 - are too short
- Which commandment does John forget when quizzed?
 - thou shall not kill
 - thou shall not commit adultery
 - thou shall honor thy mother and father
 - thou shall not covet
- Whom does Cheever come to the Proctor home to arrest?
 - John Proctor
 - Reverend Hale
 - Mary Warren
 - Elizabeth Proctor
- John Proctor convinces Mary Warren to testify that
 - the girls are pretending to be possessed
 - Abigail is a witch
 - Hale is a warlock
 - John and Abigail slept together
- Who is in charge of the court?
 - Giles Corey
 - Danforth
 - Hale
 - Parris
- Elizabeth will not be hanged if found guilty because
 - she is a woman
 - Puritans do not permit capital punishment
 - She is pregnant
 - John Proctor is well respected
- On what charge is Giles Corey arrested?
 - witchcraft
 - murder
 - contempt of court
 - slander

17. When Mary testifies against them, the girls
 - A. all confess
 - B. attack her
 - C. claim Mary is bewitching them
 - D. claim John Proctor has bewitched Mary

18. In an attempt to defeat Abigail, John Proctor
 - A. tells the court of his affair with her
 - B. accuses her of witchcraft
 - C. tries to kill her
 - D. suggest that she is a transvestite

19. Who's John hope will tell the truth about Abigail?
 - A. Elizabeth
 - B. Rebecca Nurse
 - C. Mary Warren
 - D. Parris

20. What does Elizabeth do when called to testify?
 - A. keeps silent
 - B. tells a lie
 - C. tells the truth
 - D. kills herself.

21. What's the court do with John Proctor?
 - A. frees him and send him home
 - B. orders him stoned to death
 - C. exiles him to Maine
 - D. arrests and tries him for witchcraft

22. When John faces death, Rev. Hale begs him to
 - A. kill himself
 - B. blame someone else
 - C. confess though innocent
 - D. refuse to confess

23. Proctor retracts his confession because
 - A. the officials demand that he sign it
 - B. Hale asks him to do so
 - C. New evidence comes to light
 - D. Abigail confesses as well

24. At the end of the play, Abigail
 - A. kills herself in remorse
 - B. flees Salem with her uncle's money
 - C. is hanged
 - D. is revealed as a witch

25. Miller wrote *The Crucible* a few years after he wrote *Death of a Salesman* in the 1950s to criticize Senator Joseph McCarthy for prosecuting and blacklisting

hundreds of playwrights and actors whom he claimed were unpatriotic communists—even Arthur Miller was accused of sympathizing with Communists. McCarthy did this to gain political power by creating false hysteria, making Americans believe that their country was being over-run by Commies, so that he could look like a sanctified hero who could save America. In the play, you will see McCarthy re-imagined as which character, who also is on a witch hunt to execute innocent Salem residents so that he may look like a moral hero and gain political power over all of Massachusetts?

- A. Reverend Hale
- B. Thomas Putnam
- C. Parris
- D. Judge Danforth

26.-40. Judge Danforth proclaims at the hanging of John Proctor, "Who weeps for these weeps for corruption." In a response to Danforth's remark, draw a noose around [3] characters from the cast below who you feel are most corrupt—and write a very brief rationale why they deserve to be hanged—in other words, explain why they are so corrupt.

John Proctor, Respected Farmer
 Elizabeth Proctor, His Wife
 Abigail Williams, The Proctors' Former Servant
 Parris, Abigail's Uncle
 Tituba, Parris' Servant From Barbados
 Mary Warren, The Proctors' Current Servant
 Thomas Putnam, Wealthy Landowner
 Betty Parris And Ruth Putnam, "Afflicted Daughters"
 Rev. Hale, The Colony's Chief Witch Hunter
 Judges Danforth And Hathorne
 Sarah And Giles Corey, Accused Witches
 Sarah Good And Sarah Osborne, Accused Witches
 Rebecca Nurse, Accused Witch
 George Jacobs, the elderly accused man

#1 Corrupt Character: _____

Why?

#2 Corrupt Character: _____

Why?

#3 Corrupt Character: _____

Why?

