

has come to. Although he does not put it in words, we get the feeling that Willy has decided that since he is convinced it is all downhill from here, he will bail out before the real crash.

Friends in both works are similar because they are the ones who held up success in a palpable way in front of the failing men. Willy's next door neighbor has a very successful lawyer son, the same boy who tried to help Biff pass his math exam, the failure of which on Biff's part developed him into a man who has set his goals in life on being a social and financial failure. His neighbor also attacks Willy's self-sufficiency by offering him money, deepening his sense of failure as a man. Willy's neighbor is an understanding man, and will go as far as helping him with his bills, again making Willy's suicide seem all the more unnecessary. Willy also has an invisible friend in his brother Ben who is a symbol that represents the positive results of the American success image, who is worse than his (Willy's) neighbor in presenting Willy with the unattainable success. Through a dream visit with Ben we see more of Willy's past life, and realize that his family may have been a deterrent to his participating in higher business activities, even though it was Willy's choice to keep a tight-knit family and defer involvement in big business. Tommy has one friend, and one acquaintance, in the novel that help to reveal his mind and life. Tamkin has been given the power of attorney for Tommy's meager estate, and their venture throughout the main part of the novel is shaky and losing money, although depicted as a solid business venture. Besides being a financial manager for Tommy's dwindling monetary reserves, Tamkin is also his psychiatrist on an informal level, and is constantly prying into Tommy's mind and trying to bolster his confidence until