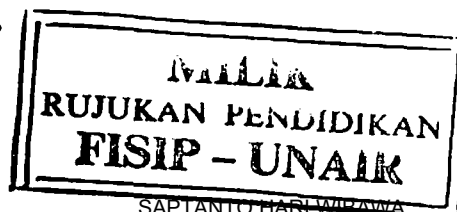


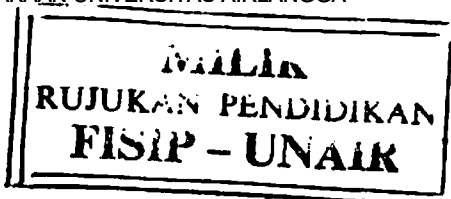
## CHAPTER IV

## THE CONFLICTS ANALYSIS

All My Sons is a play which offers the noble lesson about man and his responsibilities. Man is both an individual as well as social. Through his hero, Joe Keller, Arthur Miller wants to maintain the necessity for the individual to acknowledge a double responsibility to self and society. In the development of the hero's character we see that Joe Keller had denied this double responsibility. He had given the highest priority to his self-interests by claiming the family responsibility as his motivating force and neglected his social responsibility without feeling guilty. This is the crucial point of this play which is interested to be discussed further.

Arthur Miller provided the real description about human life, human character and behaviour, and also the life problems themselves. Joe Keller is the representative of a kind of man that may really exist in society life. He performs his mental quality through his way of thinking, feeling and action that can be traced in the several elements of drama. The writer limits the scope of analysis on: plot, setting, and characters by the reason that these elements are supposed to be representative enough to reveal the wholeness of impression.





#### IV.1. P l o t

In this analysis, the writer will provide the plot of All My Sons first. Plot here is the main frame in which the sequences of various events or incidents in All My Sons pass through in cause and effect relationship. From the sequences of events which make up this play, the writer will choose some of them which have the contents of conflict. That plot of All My Sons is:

Point 1 - 13 below are events in Act One:

1. Joe Keller and his neighbours are making chit - chat with the focus on Larry's memorial tree which broke the night before.
2. Ann Deever, Larry's fiancée, comes to Keller's house because of Chris's invitation.
3. Joe Keller's forced by Chris, his elder son, to make sure Kate Keller (the mother) that Larry has already died three and half years ago.
4. Chris says to his father that he's going to marry Ann Deever though the girl is his brother's fiancée.
5. Kate doesn't allow Chris to marry Ann due to her conviction that Larry is still alive somewhere. She also forces Ann to confess that she's waiting for Larry.
6. Ann disproves Kate if she is really not waiting for Larry again.
7. The coming of Frank Lubey opens the past events

because he asks Ann about her father, Steve Deever, who is still in jail.

8. For keeping his crime secret, Joe Keller says that he is released because he is innocent in the case of selling of the cracked cylinder heads to the Army Air Force which caused the death of twenty-one pilots.
9. Joe Keller talks to Ann as if he takes pity on her unlucky father.
10. Chris, however, still assumes that Steve murdered twenty-one pilots who crashed with their P-40.
11. Joe Keller says that Larry's not belong to twenty-one pilots who died, because he never flew a P-40. The explanation causes Chris argued with his father.
12. Chris declares his feeling that he felt so much in love with Ann Deever, and so does she.
13. Chris talks to Ann about a kind of responsibility, Man for Man and universal brotherhood that's taken from his own experiences during the war.

Point 14 - 22 are sequence of events in Act Two:

14. Ann's speaking with Sue Bayliss reveals that everybody on the block knows Joe Keller pulled a fast one to get out of jail. They do not like the Kellers because they think Joe Keller is guilty.
15. George Deever, Steve's son, arrives at Keller's house for confrontating him due to the fact that Joe Keller

had denied the responsibility at the trial that leads Steve to be put in jail. Besides, George Deever also forbids his sister, Ann, to marry Chris.

16. Chris, who haven't known yet the real story, tries to protect his family and argued with George Deever.
17. George tells Chris that Joe Keller's involved in the crime, because he had allowed cracked cylinder heads to be put in aircraft rather than stop the faulty process which's producing them. He commanded Steve to do this via telephone.
18. Joe and Kate try to seduce George. Unluckily, during the conversation Kate slipped of the tongue which causes George Deever argued with them again.
19. Chris angry with his mother because Kate still forbid him to marry Ann Deever.
20. Being argued by her own son, Kate reveals Joe Keller's evil finally. She says that if Larry is dead, Joe Keller'd killed him.
21. Chris forces his father to tell the truth. But, Joe Keller tries to defend his conviction that he did not kill his son because Larry never flew a P-40s.
22. Chris's furious over Joe Keller When he realizes his father's guts had caused twenty-one pilots to be died.

Point 23 - 26 are events in Act Three:

23. Joe Keller still defends himself on the ground of

- sound business procedure and the family responsibility which he claims as his motivating force. He believes that there's nothing bigger than the family.
24. Realizing that the problem is very hard to be solved, Ann gives Kate the letter from Larry as her final effort to overcome the uncertainty about Larry's death.
25. Everything is clear when Chris read Larry's letter which's written at the day he died. Larry crashed off the coast of China, November twenty fifth. His engine didn't fail him, but he committed suicide.
26. Joe Keller shoots himself after realizing that Larry committed suicide because he couldn't help to take ashame over his father's guilty.

The above plot presences the sequences of events or incidents that happen in All My Sons. These events progress through a struggle of opposing forces which usually create a conflict. These conflicts may be external such as man against nature or physical world, man against man, or, they may be internal such as man against himself, or conflict of desires within a person. But, we also see that not all the crucial events presented in the plot of All My Sons have the contents of conflict. So, to achieve the objective of analysis, that is to find out the con-

flicts happen in All My Sons, the writer will pick out the events which have the contents of conflict only. Then more description about the conflict itself are given to make the analysis clear.

In All My Sons, the conflicts mainly to be presented through its characters. It may be the conflict between the major and the minor characters such as Joe Keller with his wife, Kate Keller; or with his only son, Chris. Then, between both the minor characters as shown by Kate and Chris Keller, Chris and George, or between Ann and Kate Keller. At last but not least, is the inner conflict within a person such as Joe Keller with himself.

The earlier conflict rises when Chris talks about Ann Deever with his father. Chris says that he is going to marry Ann though he knows she is Larry's fiancée. He believes that his brother has already died several years ago, so that he dares to propose Ann undoubtedly. Firstly, Joe Keller tries to prevent his son's desire. Joe says that it's almost impossible to make sure Kate and request for her permission or agreement. However, Kate cannot settle Larry from her mind. It means that Kate will be the hardest obstruction for Chris to realize his dreams. Then, Chris forces Joe Keller in order to agree with his planning. He decides to get out, married and live some place else if his father will not help him to persuade his mother.

CHRIS: I've given it three years of thought. I'd hoped that if I waited, Mother would forget Larry and then we'd have a regular wedding and everything happy. But if that can't happen here, then I'll have to get out.

KELLER: What the hell is this?

CHRIS: I'll get out. I'll get married and live some place else. May be in New York. (Act One: 68-69).

Afraid of his son's threat, Joe Keller promises to give an undertaking over Chris' willingness.

The argumentation between Chris, Joe Keller, and Ann in one side with Kate Keller shows that the conflict develop into the warm atmosphere. Chris forces his mother to confront the fact of her son's death. Then, when Kate argued with Joe Keller, she refuses to allow Chris to marry his brother's fiancée because that would acknowledge Larry's death. Whereas in fact Kate still hopes for Larry's return. She believes that Larry will come back someday as reported by newspaper about a man who turned up after reported missing in the war even longer than Larry. Moreover, Kate threatens her husband to act as if Larry is returning and she will kill herself if he isn't coming back.

MOTHER: I want you to act like he's coming back. Both of you. Don't think I haven't noticed you since Chris invited her. I won't stand for any nonsense.

KELLER: But, Kate -

MOTHER: Because if he's not coming back, then I'll kill myself! (Act One: 73).

At the next moment, Kate's involved in the other debate with Ann Deever. She compels Ann to admit that she's still waiting for Larry. Honestly, Ann confesses that she can't mourn her fiancée forever, "Well, I'm not, Kate." Ann knows that Larry has died and she accepts this reality wholeheartedly.

The unexciting situation comes more and more unpleasant with the entering of Frank Lubey into the debate arena. He deliberately asks Ann Deever about her father, Steve Deever, who still in jail, "How about it, does Dad expect a parole soon?" Frank's question, however, will reveal and open again the past event which causes Steve Deever to be put in jail. Consequently, the conflicts grow harder and harder with the more complex problem. Joe Keller, the one who get in touch with the past event directly, feels so worry. He tries to hide the fact by telling a story based on his own version. He twists of the truth by saying that he never allowed his business partner, Steve Deever, to covers over the cracked cylinder heads and shipping it to the Army Air Force.

**KELLER:** ... Kid, walkin' down the street that day I was guilty as hell. Except I wasn't, and there was a court paper in my pocket to prove I wasn't, and I walked...past...the porches. Result? Fourteen months later I had one of the best shops in the state again, a respected man again; bigger than ever. (Act One:80).

To make sure Chris as well as Ann that he is a good, res-





possible man, Joe Keller pretends to defend his business partner, Steve Deever. He says what Steve was doing is really a 'Little man' action only. But, both of Chris and Ann assume that Steve's guilty. Chris accuses Steve murdered twenty-one pilots, while Ann incriminates her own father as the one who causes her fiancée's death.

The following day, Ann's talking with Sue Bayliss, a neighbour and Jim's wife. It's coming to Act Two now. Ann's so surprise to hear Sue's information that everybody on the block knows the truth if Joe Keller pulled a fast one to get out of jail. They think Joe Keller is guilty.

SUE: Who is he to ruin a man's life? Everybody knows Joe pulled a fast one to get out of jail.

ANN: That's not true!

SUE: Then why don't you go out and talk to people? Go on, talk to them. There's not a person on the block who doesn't know the truth. (Act Two: 94).

This startling reality's confirmed by George Deever, who comes for confrontating Joe Keller with that guilt. He argued with Chris who haven't known yet the truth story, firstly. Then, George tells Chris that Joe Keller is the one who has to take the responsibility over the shipping of cracked cylinder heads to the American Army which lead to the death of twenty-one pilots of P-40s. Joe Keller has commanded Steve Deever, via telephone, and allowed him to repair the defective airplane motors and



to be shipped to the American Army rather than ruin his company's business and losing the contract.

GEORGE: You can't know, you wouldn't be here. Dad came to work that day. The night foreman came to him and showed him the cylinder heads...they were coming out of the process with defects. There was something wrong with the process. So Dad went directly to the phone and called here and told Joe to come down again. By this time he had over a hundred defectives. The Army was screaming for stuff and Dad didn't have anything to ship. So Joe told him ...on the phone he told him to weld cover up the cracks in any way he could, and ship them out. (Act Two: 101).

Realising this unfortunate situation, Joe Keller and his wife, Kate Keller, try to persuade George. Unluckily, in this critical situation Kate makes a very fatal fault. She slipped of the tongue.

MOTHER: Well, sure...To George: I mean except for that flu. George stands perfectly still. Well, it slipped my mind, don't look at me that way. He wanted to go to the shop but he couldn't lift himself off the bed. I thought he had pneumonia. (Act Two: 111).

This undeliberateness is clearly going to force Joe Keller into corner. Because, what's Kate said contradictory with Joe Keller's disavowal at the trial three and half years ago. And once again, Kate Keller do a harm action when she still forbade Chris to marry Ann Deever. It makes the conflicts among the characters come to the higher tension. Chris gets annoyed knowing his mother's obstinacy. This condition, of course, provokes a crisis

for Kate. She realizes that the marriage between Chris and Ann Deever will be the signal the end of her hope. This bitter reality causes the internal conflict within her mind. She loves both of her sons, Chris and Larry. Though Larry was reported missing in the war, she's still waiting for his return. Therefore, when Chris compels her to agree with his marriage, Kate refuses it. However, Ann Deever is Larry's fiancée. If she permits Chris to marry Ann Deever, she will lose her hope. Because, her agreement means her acceptance to the fact that actually Larry has already died.

Kate doesn't know that Larry never flew a P - 40. She just knows that Larry's a pilot. And she realizes that his husband has committed a crime by shipping the cracked cylinder heads to the American Air Force. But she doesn't understand those cylinder heads're put in the P-40 only. So when Chris forces her to confront the fact of Larry's death, Kate reveals Joe Keller's evil finally. She says that if Larry's dead, Joe Keller had killed him. Kate thinks that if Larry's dead, it must be caused by the cracked cylinder heads.

Then, Chris forces his father to tell the truth. However, Joe Keller will not admit that he has committed a crime by saying his conviction that Larry never flew a P-40, "He never flew a P-40, what's the matter with

you?" (Act Two: 114). It indicates that Larry's not belonged to the twenty-one pilots who crashed into the sea together with their military planes. But, this answer or explanation makes Chris angry with his father. As a militant idealist, Chris's so furious when he realizes that his father's guts is the causal factor of the death of twenty-one pilots. In his last effort to disclaim all the accusations over his guilty, Joe Keller says to his son that everything he has done caused by his responsibility to the family. It's his main motivating force and he believes that there is nothing bigger than the family.

**KELLER:** There's nothin' bigger than that. And You're goin' to tell him, you understand? I'm his father and he's my son, and if there's something bigger than that I'll put a bullet in my head! (Act Three: 120).

Knowing that the situation becomes more difficult and also the problem is harder and harder to be solved, Ann Deever gives Kate Keller a letter, Larry's letter as her final attempt to overcome the uncertainty around her fiancée's death.

**ANN:** Sit down. Mother moves left to chair, but does not sit. First, you've got to understand. When I came, I didn't have any idea that Joe - I had nothing against him or you. I came to get married. I hoped ..... So I didn't bring to hurt you. I thought I'd show it to you only if there was no other way to settle Larry in your mind. (Act Three: 122).

Everything is clear now. Kate accepts the fact

of her son's death. Then, Chris pick up the letter from his mother and read it in front of his father. He hopes that Joe Keller will admit his guilty after reading that letter. Rightly, Larry's letter has explained and answered the question. The letter that's written at the day Larry died expounds that Larry crashed off the coast of China November twenty-fifth. His engine didn't fail him, but he committed suicide because he couldn't help to take ashame over his father's guilty.

Joe Keller, a business man who considers people to be less indispensable than an industrial process, realizes his guilty, finally. He able to accept the necessary relationship between self and society. Joe Keller be aware of the reality that there is a universe of people outside and he is responsible to it. So he must be responsible not only to his self-interests and his family, but also to the people outside. By the end of the play, Joe Keller understands that the twenty-one pilots are also his own sons. He must be responsible to their safety too, really.

**KELLER**, looking at letter in his hand: Then what is this if it isn't telling me? Sure, he was my son. But I think to him they were all my sons. And I guess they were, I guess they were. I'll be right down. Exist into house. (Act Three: 126).

And stunned into accepting responsibility for his actions, Joe Keller commits suicide. He shoots himself, lastly.

## IV.2. Setting

It's already mentioned in the theoretical approach that setting or background in the fictional works refers to the place where the incidents or events happen and the time or period of the action. Besides, "setting may relate to the characters, plot, or the ideas on symbolic levels." (R.C. Guches, 1980:68). This means that setting in the fictional works can be distinguished into physical or real setting and spiritual or symbolic setting. Real setting refers to real places where the events of story take place. While, the symbolic setting denotes to the values embodied in the real setting.

In this thesis, the writer analyzes both of the real and symbolic setting of All My Sons. The real setting of All My Sons is described firstly based on the text. Then, the analysis will be continued interpretatively to find out the symbolic setting.

### 2.1. Real Setting

In this section, the analysis is directed to obtain the real setting of All My Sons. The description about the place where the story happen and the time or period of the action will be given descriptively based on the text. It is hoped that the analysis of the real setting

will assist or back up the analysis of symbolic setting.

The play entitle All My Sons has the setting of America in the mid-century or when the second World War was taking place. In this period, America was developing the country, especially in economic, security and defense sectors. There're many shops and factories built. They produced not only the peace products for every day life needs, but also manufactured the material of war. Those products, mainly the military-aids, were produced to support and supplay the American Army that's involved in the second World War. It is not only the American Army, but also the whole American people that included in the war. The play told us that both of Joe Keller's own sons, that is Chris and Larry were belonged to the people who joined up the military service. But, they're in different unit, Larry in the Air Force and Chris in the Army or infantry.

MOTHER: ... Remember the way he used to fly low past the house when he was training? When he used to see his face in the cockpit going by? (Act One: 72).

The above quotation confirms that the time of action is really in the war time. It also shows that the setting of All My Sons is in America and the war time. While, the real condition which may happen in the war time can be seen in the quotation below:

CHRIS, speaks quietly, factually at first: It's all mixed up with so many other things .... You remember,

overseas, I was in command of a company?  
ANN: Yeah, sure.  
CHRIS: Well, I lost them.  
ANN: How many?  
CHRIS: Just about all. (Act One: 85).

The quotation tells us that Chris became a commander of a company in the Army Force unit. During the war he got a tour of duty with his company. But, in the one battle his company was defeated. He lost almost all of his soldiers. From these facts we can understand the situation of America as a country and the condition of its people in the second World War.

Indeed, all people should be participate in defending and protecting the country. They have struggled and sacrificed all their live and life for the glory of the country. However, there is no struggle without sacrifice. And the war is the time to prove their loyalty and responsibility to the society as well as to the country.

CHRIS: They didn't die; they killed themselves for each other .... Everything was being destroyed, see, but it seemed to me that one new thing was made. A kind of - responsibility. Man for Man. (Act One: 85).

It shows that the war time is the period which full of conflict and struggle. Everything can be happened in this terrific situation. The war can destroy everything in the world. But, the war can also make the people to be aware and responsible for the safety of their society and the





country welfare. They try to protect the other and never think about their own safety. They struggle to defend their country.

Besides the participation of the people, the contribution of the shops and factories which produce the material of war is also very important in that war. They are demanded to produce and supply the American Army with their products. Let's see the quotation below:

**KELLER:** ... Listen, you gotta appreciate what was doin' in that shop in the war. The both of you. It was a madhouse: Every half hour the Major callin' for cylinder heads, they were whipping us with the telephone. (Act One: 82).

The quotation impresses us that a cooperation and a close relationship between American Army and the factories that produce the military-aids or the material of war was made. They need each other. It's the war time, the American Army needs their products, on the other hand, the factories should distribute their goods to get profit. More than that, the sentence "Every half hour the Major callin' for the cylinder heads, they were whipping us with the telephone," shows the real situation of the war itself. It confirms that when the war was taking place, the American Army was lacking of the cylinder heads for their military planes. However, the military planes are the key force of the American Army. They are the power which will help



the American Army to win the war.

At that time, the existence of the factories which produced the material of war were very important. It is due to the fact that their products're really needed by the American Army. In this case, the play All My Sons says that the Army Air Force was lacking of the cylinder heads to operate their military planes. They need those sphere parts of the airplane engine in a big amount. And they make cooperation with one of the factories that produce those cylinder heads.

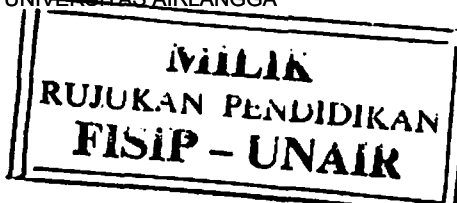
GEORGE: The Army was screaming for stuff and Dad didn't have anything to ship. (Act Two: 101).

That is all about the general description of America in the war time based on the text of All My Sons.

Furthermore, the story of All My Sons also takes the specific place as its setting. It is Joe Keller's house that located on the outskirts of an American town. But, the author did not mentioned the name of the town clearly.

Joe Keller's house is a big, luxurious and expensive home. It would have cost perhaps fifteen thousand in the early twenties.

The stage is hedged on right and left by tall, closely planted poplars which lend the yard as secluded atmosphere. Upstage is filled with the back of the house and its open, unroofed porch which extend into the yard some six feet. It would have cost perhaps



fifteen thousand in the early twenties when it was built. (Act One: 58).

This house is two stories high and has seven rooms. As a sumptuous house, it is nicely painted, looks tight and comfortable. There are various plants and the yard is covered with the green sod. And at the right, beside the house, the entrance of the driveway can be seen, but the poplars cut off view of its continuation downstage. In the left corner, downstage, stands the four - foot - high stump of a slender apple tree whose upper trunk and the branches lie toppled beside it, fruit still clinging to its branches.

Downstage right is a small, trellised arbor, shaped like a sea shell, with a decorative bulb hanging from its forward-curving roof. Garden chairs and a table are scattered about. A garbage pail on the ground next to the porch steps, a wire leaf-burner near it. (Act One: 58).

That is a brief description about the house of Joe Keller which's located on the outskirts of an American town. Then, the description of this real setting will be analyzed interpretatively. The interpretation of the real setting, then, is called the symbolic setting. The main point discussed here is something behind the realistic view or whatever the real setting suggests behind them. That what will be done with the setting of All My Sons.

## 2.2. Symbolic Setting

We have known that the symbolic setting denotes to the values implied by the real setting. The setting of All My Sons is in America, particularly in Joe Keller's house. However, the author of this play has certain purpose in describing the setting of All My Sons. And the writer's task here is to interpret that setting which, of course, has the conotative or symbolic meaning.

First of all, it is about Joe Keller's house itself. This is a big, large, and really luxurious house. This house consists of two stages, upstage and downstage, and has seven rooms.

Upstage is filled with the back of the house and its open, unroofed porch which extends into the yard some six feet. The house is two stories high and has seven rooms. It would have cost perhaps fifteen thousand in the early twenties when it was built. (Act One: 58).

The big, luxurious house here is the symbol of the success. It is actually Joe Keller's success. He has been a successful business man for many years. He gets position as the boss at his own factory. And however, fifteen thousand dollars in the early twenties were not a cheap price for a house, and it were not a few amount of money to buy or build a house. Because it's the hard, difficult period to make and gathered much money. More than that, it's the Depression time. Only a well-off man who will be able for earning much money and build a sumptuous house.

Then, the yard of Joe Keller's house is covered with the green grass. "... and the yard is green with sod, here and there plants whose season is gone." The green sod or green grass here has the conotative meaning. It's the symbol of prosperity. Joe Keller's family is very prosperous. As a rich, wealthy man, Joe Keller and his family used to live in luxury. They have a high standard of living eventhough in the Depression and war time. For common people, it is a very difficult period to live in the sufficient standard of living. But, it is not for Joe Keller's family. When other people was struggling to defend their life in order to survive in the middle of chaotic situation, Joe Keller and his family were living in prosperity and enjoyment. Joe Keller used this occcsion to earn money and to fulfil all of his private interests. And of course, their life style is very contradict with the social condition at that time. Their luxurious life style is also impressed through the house that's now nicely painted. "Now it is nicely painted, looks tight and comfortable,..." (Act One: 58).

Another aspects of the house which show the symbolic setting are the trees planted on the yard of Joe Keller's house. And in All My Sons, a tree planted here as a symbol of the son who had given his life in expiation. From the play we know that Joe Keller is a successful business

man. He has two grown up sons, Chris and Larry. Joe Keller is a producer of the military-aids particularly the cylinder heads, the parts of the airplane engine. When the war was taking place, Joe Keller has a position and plays a very important role in that war. He got a profitable contract from the government to supply the Army Air Force with the cylinder heads in a big amount. His important position is also caused by the fact that by the time the war was going on, the Army Air Force was lacking of the cylinder heads for their military planes. Then, Joe Keller shipped the cracked cylinder heads to the Army Air Force which finally lead to the death of twenty-one pilots. They crashed off together with their military planes. Joe Keller and his business partner were put in jail. But, he pulled a fast one to get out of jail. Joe Keller's exonerated finally.

Larry is the younger son of Joe Keller. He's also a pilot. Realizing that his father had done a crime action, Larry couldn't help to take ashame and to live anymore. At last, Larry was committed suicide by crashing off his military plane into the sea. It means that Larry had sacrificed himself or had given his life in expiation. And it is symbolized by a planted tree.

Further, another little planted tree in the yard also has the symbolic meaning.

In the left corner, downstage, stands the four-foot-high stump of a slender apple tree whose upper trunk and branches lie toppled beside it, fruit still clinging to its branches. (Act One: 58).

A blasted little tree in a cramped back yard which's symbolic of the Keller family's narrow way of life, normal intellectual - moral range, and questionable moral situation. That tree is actually Larry's memorial tree. It was planted in the back yard of the house at the year when Larry was reported missing in the war mission. And now that tree was toppled by the storm.

#### IV.3. Character and Characterization

The presentation of characters in drama is very important since drama "delineates life and human activity by means of presenting various actions of - and dialogue between - a group of characters." (Christopher R. Reaske, 1966: 5).

In Arthur Miller's All My Sons, we will find both of main and minor characters. There are four main characters in the story: Joe Keller, Kate Keller, Chris Keller and Ann Deever. Among them, Joe Keller is the leading or central character in the story. While, the minor ones are: George Deever, Dr. Jim Bayliss, Sue Bayliss, Frank Lubey, Lydia Lubey, and Bert.

This analysis is limited on the main characters of the play with the focus of attention on the leading character, Joe Keller. It is due to the fact that the main characters do not only bring a smooth movement of the story, but also present a clear understanding to the content of the story itself. However, the conflict and the development of the conflict in All My Sons are very much influenced and determined by the existence of the main characters. To gain the objective of the study, it will be given more attention to Joe Keller's self-interests and his social responsibilities. While, another main characters such as Kate Keller, Chris Keller, and Ann Deever will be analyzed to support the problem.



Joe Keller is the protagonist. He is the central and principal character in All My Sons. He plays a very important role in the story because, he is the character who brings the author's ideas and messages. Through Joe Keller, Arthur Miller wants to maintain the necessity for the individual to acknowledge a double responsibility to self and society. (Miller/William/Albe, 1986: 138). In this case, Joe Keller represents the immorality of a society which considers people to be less indispensable than an industrial process. Joe Keller places the importance of success in economic and social spheres above the necessity to establish real contact between human beings.

### 3.1. Joe Keller and His Self-Interests

Since there is no narration in drama, we will come to know more about Joe Keller from his action and dialogue with other characters. In other words, we will find Joe Keller by what other characters think of him, by what he says and the way in which he speaks in dialogue, based upon what he act and he doesn't act, by means of his physical appearance in doing action and dialogue, and based upon what he thinks about himself.

Joe Keller is nearing sixty. He is a husband of a loving wife, Kate Keller. He has two grown up sons who

both of them joined up the American Army during the war. He is one of the successful manufacturer of military-aids at that war time. Now he retools his industry into the machinery shop and machine factory which produces pressure-cookers and an assembly for washing machines. Arthur Miller has given a brief description about Joe Keller in the previous Act one as follow:

**KELLER** is nearing sixty. A heavy man of stolid mind and build, a business man these many years, but with the imprint of the machine-shop worker and boss still upon him. When he reads, when he speaks, when he listens, it is with the terrible concentration of the uneducated man for whom there is still wonder in many commonly known things, a man whose judgements must be dredged out of experience and a peasant-like common sense. A man among men. (Act One: 58).

Now we have some essential information about Joe Keller. He is a successful business man for many years. He gets position as a boss at his own factory. From these information, the writer will start the analysis about Joe Keller and his self-interests.

We realize that every strong person always wants to be free to do what he wants. It means that he expresses his own desire or interest and try to make it real. Joe Keller also has his own interest in life as the realization of his free will. Therefore, he also wants to make his own interests come true.

However, Joe Keller is a rich man and belongs to the

certain social class of the society, of course. These facts impress us that money is the only thing which will help him to reach whatever he wants and to satisfy his self-interests. It is due to the fact that profit or money is the main purpose of the most business action. And we realize it as the common thing in the field of business.

Joe Keller understands well that he should have much money to fulfil his self-interests. To make money, then, he is doing business. It means, Joe Keller develops his business as the way to earn much money. He believes that by doing business he will get much money and advantages which finally will assist him to reach whatever he wants.

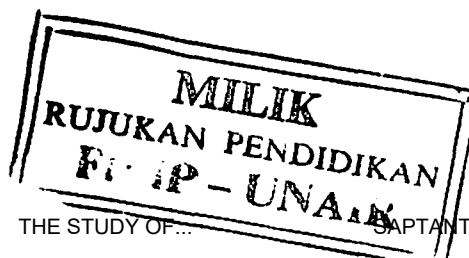
Joe Keller took the chance to be a producer of war material or military-aids, when the war was approaching. He is like another man who will exploit the good opportunity that comes to him. Joe Keller knows that war time is not only presenting the chaotic situation, but also giving him a good occasion to gain as much advantages as possible from his business. And he thinks that a man must take every good chance and make use of it to realize his wish or desire whatever the condition is. He understands that the best business in war time is producing the material of war itself.

Material of war and military-aids are needed by the American Army to win the war. According to the text, America was involved in the war. At that time, when the war was going on, the first problem faced by the American Army was equipment problem. It included the material of war or military-aids. Somehow America had to retool and transform industry as quickly as possible into war production.

In the meantime, one of those industries that produces the material of war is Joe Keller's factory. This factory produces the military-aids, especially cylinder heads, the airplane motors for the military planes.

Meanwhile, as we have known and mentioned before that American Army was facing the equipment problem, the Army Air Force was lacking of the spare parts of the airplanes. They need many cylinder heads to be put in their military planes. Because, they will never able to operate their military planes without those cylinder heads.

At last, Joe Keller gets a profitable contract from the government to produce and supply the Army Air Force with the cylinder heads. As the consequences, Joe Keller must be able to send those cylinder heads on time. More than that, he should be responsible for the quality of the products, because cylinder heads is the crucial part of airplane engine.



Force. Joe Keller said that he must ship those cracked cylinder heads because the Army Air Force ask for the cylinder heads continuously.

**KELLER:** Every half hour the Major callin' for the cylinder heads, they were whippin' us with telephone. (Act One: 82).

And at the same time he had nothing to be shipped out to the Army except a hundred and twenty defective cylinder heads. Then he tried to repair those cracked cylinder heads and shipped them out to the Army Air Force with the reason: If he didn't ship those cracked cylinder heads, it will cause a decrease in the power of the Army Air Force as long as their military planes cannot be operated in the war.

Joe Keller's reason was confirmed by the fact that military planes are the key force or the main power of the American Army. If those military planes cannot be operated, it will weaken the power of the Army Air Force in particular and American Army in general. Further, it may makes America as a state can be defeated in that war.

That is all about Joe Keller's reason. Now we come to the another opinion or consideration which may help him to release from the accusation. First, it's the war time. Just by the chance, the Army Air Force's lacking of cylinder heads for their military planes. They

were crying for those cylinder heads to Joe Keller's factory. At that critical time, Joe Keller only had the cracked cylinder heads. He had nothing more to be sent out to the Army.

GEORGE: ... The Army was screaming for the stuff and Dad didn't have anything to ship. (Act Two: 102).

It seems that the situation and condition of the war time had forced Joe Keller into the difficult position. He had no choice. As a business man he should try to fulfil the order of the consumers. Moreover, Joe Keller had had a contract from the government. If he doesn't ship those cylinder heads, he will lose the contract. His inability to supply the Army Air Force with the cylinder heads will be regarded as a violation to the contract. And through the economic point of view, his decision to ship his factory products may also be considered as the right one. Because Joe Keller thinks about the market-oriented, that is "its fundamental purpose and reason for being is to produce goods and service for the benefit of consumers." (Glos/Baker, 1972: 4). As a producer and a distributor of the military-aids, Joe Keller must produce and distribute his factory's products to the consumers. In this case, he should distribute or sell his cylinder heads to the Army Air Force as his consumers in order to get the profit. However, profit is the main purpose or the final

target of the business action after producing and selling the products. This statement is confirmed by the traditional viewpoint which assume that making profit in business is the most exclusive duty for every business man.

... their exclusive obligation was to make profit for themselves and their stockholders. This conviction was validated to a great extent by the economic theory of the time which taught that profit seeking was the only acceptable way of life for business men. (Glos/ Baker, 1972: 58).

This means that the traditional viewpoint regarded the private profit as the principal motivating force in doing business. Every business man should try to do somethings for making as much profit as possible, because it is the only acceptable way of life for him. It's accordance with Joe Keller who wants to get profit from his business. He will do everything with his business as long as he'll get profit and money. And it is, however, considered right by the traditional viewpoint.

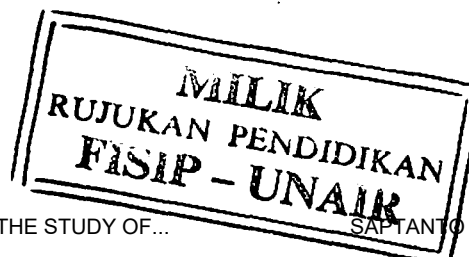
We have known Joe Keller's reason in shipping the cracked cylinder heads to the Army Air Force which finally lead to the death of twenty-one pilots. We also have considered another opinion which may justify Joe Keller's action. But, we must take another point of view or opinion as a measurement to judge Joe Keller, too.

We understand well that there are many ethics that should be considered carefully if we are doing business.

These ethics are usually called 'business ethics' which consists of principles and practices that are concerned with morals and good conduct as they are applicable to business situation. A business man, such as Joe Keller, is free to bring and to operate his business. There is no limitation for him to maximize the profits from his business as long as his actions are legal and not immoral. Because Joe Keller is an American business man, we will see the ethics of business in America, too.

According to the general business ethics, Joe Keller's action can be regarded as the illegal and immoral one. He had violated the business ethics by shipping the defective products to the consumers. More than that, the worst result of his action is the death of his consumers. Of course, it is contradict with the points of business ethics which say that the high quality of the products and the safety of the consumers are more than everything.

Let's see the American Marketing Association (AMA) Code of Ethics, particularly point two (2) which states "By pledging my efforts to assure that all presentations of goods, services and concepts be made honestly and clearly." (Glos/ Baker, 1972: 56). It shows us that a business man or a producer of goods should take care to his factory's products. The products should be made honestly and clearly. A producer may not play foul or dishonest





in the making of his products and he is also forbidden to hide the real condition of his products. Joe Keller himself had done a careless action. He made the cylinder heads, but there is something wrong with the process. And those cylinder heads come out of the process with some defects finally. Joe Keller knew the condition of his factory's products. They didn't comply with the standard of quality. Nevertheless, Joe Keller tried to hide the defects of his cylinder heads. He told his business partner, Steve Deever, to weld cover up the cracks or defects in any way he could and shipped them out to the Army.

GEORGE: So Joe told him .... on the phone he told him to weld, cover up the cracks in any way he could, and ship them out. (Act Two: 101),

It means that those cylinder heads are made dishonestly and unclearly. The Army never knew the real condition of those cylinder heads, because Joe Keller had repaired the defects. So they look like well in their surface. His deceit was uncovered when the accident happened. The military planes with the cracked cylinder heads crashed off and lead to the death of the pilots.

Based on the American Marketing Association Code of Ethics, it can be said that Joe Keller is guilty. He neglected and violated the point which told the business man or the producer to make the goods or products honestly and cleraly.

Besides AMA Code of Ethics, Business-Consumer Relations Code also proposed almost the same idea. The first and the second point of the Business-Consumer Relations Code stated that the American business has the responsibility to protect the health and safety of consumer and to produce goods in the high standard of quality. Let's see the quotation below:

- (1). Protect the health and safety of consumers in the design and manufacture of products and the provision of consumer services. This includes action against harmful side effects on the quality of life and the environment arising from technological progress.
- (2). Utilize advancing technology to produce goods that meet high standard of quality at the lowest reasonable price. (Glos / Baker, 1972: 59).

The above points indicate that the main task of a producer is to protect the consumers' health and safety by making products or goods in the high standard of quality. It is the major requirement in American business, because the consumers are everything. Without consumers the factory's products are nothing. To give meaning for his products, a producer should try to make his consumers satisfy with his products.

As a producer of the military-aids, Joe Keller also ought to give more attention to his consumers' health and safety. He may not produce and sell the products which are made in the low standard of quality, because they'll

probably threaten the safety of consumers. But in fact, Joe Keller never pay attention to his respinsibility as a producer or manufacturer of goods. He didn't care for the quality of his factory's products anymore. Even he sold the defective cylinder heads to the Army Air Force without taking any considerations towards the risks which may happened. He knew the risks if those cracked cylinder heads to be put in the military planes. He realized that those military planes will crash off, but he never tried to protect the safety of the pilots who might crash.

CHRIS: It means you knew they'd crash.

KELLER: It don't mean that.

CHRIS: Then you thought they'd crash.

KELLER: I was afraid maybe -

CHRIS: You were afraid maybe! God in heaven, what kind of a man are you? Kids were hanging in the air by those heads. You know that! (Act Two: 115).

It's clear now, that Joe Keller's guts to ship the cracked cylinder heads to the Army Air Force is unforgivable. Whatever the reason is, Joe Keller had killed the pilots of the Army Air Force.

CHRIS: Dad ...Dad, you killed twenty-one men!

KELLER: What, killed?

CHRIS: You killed them, you murdered them.  
(Act Two: 114).

However, he had violated his responsibility as a producer of military-aids who should be responsible for the safety of his consumers. He had ignored his responsibility for

the safety of the pilots, Army Air Force, the society as well as the country as a whole.

And when we return back to Joe Keller, we'll find that all his actions are based on his own passion to realize his self-interests. His ambition to get profits from his business is one way to make real his self-interests. So his main purpose with his business actually is to earn as much money as possible. His orientation is profit and his mind is filled with the ideas to make money only. In other words, Joe Keller is a materialist, that is a man who always regards money or other wealth material as the measurement of someone's happiness. He thinks that profit and money are symbol which will bring him to the successful life.

Besides to make his self-interests come true, Joe Keller also needs much money for his family. He always puts his family above everything. His main concern in doing business is to make money for his family, too.

**KELLER**, desperately, lost: For you, Kate, for both of you, that's all I ever lived for. (Act Three: 121).

It seems that Joe Keller values or judges the family more than other things. He knows that money is important for his family; without money his family will perish. So he appreciates his business as the life of his family. From this fact, we may assume that Joe Keller's responsibility

to his self - interests and family's needs is more than everything. This assumption is quite true, because Joe Keller himself believes that there is nothing bigger than the family.

**KELLER:** Nothin' bigger than that. And you're goin' to tell him, you understand? I'm his father and he's my son, and if there's something bigger than that I'll put a bullet in my head! (Act Three: 120).

His adoration to his family makes Joe Keller to be a selfish man. Joe Keller sees himself as a man who must be responsible for his family life only. He never thinks that as a member of society he should be responsible for people outside. Even he refuses the necessary relationship between self and society.

Therefore, when he was doing business, Joe Keller would never consider of his consumers' safety. Take as an example when he shipped the cracked cylinder heads to the Army Air Force. He sold those defective products without feeling sympathy for the pilots who might crash with their military planes. Instead, he saw the selling of the products as the best chance to gain profit and money for his family. That's why, Joe Keller doesn't admit that his guts is the causal factor of the death of twenty-one pilots. Eventhough his own son, Larry, is also a pilot, but Joe Keller knows that Larry never flew a P-40. While the cracked cylinder heads are put in the P-40 plane only.

The above fact confirms our assumption that Joe Keller is an egoist. He never thinks about other people's fate, so he will never feel guilty over the death of those twenty-one pilots. He thinks that he should not be responsible for those pilots' destiny, because they are not his family. And as long as Larry's death was not caused by the cracked cylinder head, Joe Keller will always refuse to admit his false. "He never flew a P-40, what's the matter with you?"

Finally, everything is clear when Joe Keller read Larry's letter which's written at the day he died.

CHRIS: ... Reads: ... Listen! "My dear Ann: It is impossible to put down the things I feel. But I've got to tell you something. Yesterday they flew in a load of papers from the states and I read about Dad and your father being convicted. I can't express myself. I can't tell you how I feel-I can't bear to live any more. Last night I circled the base for twenty-minutes before I could bring myself in. How could he have done that? Every day three or four men never come back and he sits back there doing business....I don't know how to tell you what I feel.... I can't face any body.... I'm going out on a mission in a few minutes. They'll probably report me missing. If they do. I want you to know that you mustn't wait for me. I tell Ann, if I had him there now I could kill him-" ..... (Act Three: 125-126).

It explains that Larry crashed off the coast of China, November twenty-fifth. It's the same with the day when he was reported missing. At that time, his engine did not fail him, but Larry committed suicide because he couldn't help to take ashame over his father's guilty.

After reading Larry's letter, Joe Keller realizes of his guilty. However, he has done a criminal action. Twenty-one pilots from the Army Air Force had died because of his cracked cylinder heads. And now Joe Keller be aware of his double responsibility that he must be responsible not only to his self-interests and his family's needs, but also to the people outside.

At last, Joe Keller judges himself by committing suicide. And exactly, that is a fair judgement. Now we may judge him undoubtedly: Joe Keller is guilty!

### 3.2. Joe Keller and His Social Responsibilities

What the writer means with social responsibility here is the individual's responsibility to the other or to the society as a whole. It refers to the fact that man is an individual as well as social. However, an individual is unable to live solitaire or to be separated from the others. He should make an interaction with his society where he lives and with his environment. He may live with his own right and in his own right. But, as a member of society he will always associates with the principles of what should be done and what ought not to be done to fulfil the expectations that other have of him.

He cannot do things in his own way, but he should do what the society believes he should. In other words, he must follow the order of the society where he belongs.

As a member of society, an individual has a double responsibility, to self and society. It means that an individual should be responsible not only to the everything dealing with his self-interests, but also to the society as a whole.

Joe Keller is a human being. He is both as an individual and social. He also has a double responsibility. As an individual he must be responsible to his self-interests, and as a member of society he has the responsibilities of fulfilling the expectation of the society. He is responsible for doing everything the people consider right. In this case, as a producer of war-materials, Joe Keller is economically a rich and successful one. But, as the consequences his responsibilities also greater than others under him.

Joe Keller is an American business man. He lives, works and gets everything in that country. At that time, America was being involved in the war. All the people're demanded to be participate in that war and to give their attention to the country. Most of people didn't care with their own condition because they should be responsible for the country. They lived in trouble and difficulty that's



caused by the war. But, in the middle of that chaotic situation, Joe Keller and his family lived in the luxury. When other people were struggling to save their life and life from the influence of the war, Joe Keller's trying to make money and build a luxurious house.

**KELLER:** We'll talk about it. I'm going to build you a house, stone, with a driveway from the road. I want you to spread out, Chris, I want you to use What I made for you. (Act One: 87).

This fact, however, shows us that Joe Keller doesn't care with his social responsibilities. He gives no attention to the safety of the society as well as the country. He is busy with his own business. He wants to use the difficult situation to get as much advantages as possible. Joe Keller thinks that war time is his best occasion to gain his fortune.

**KELLER:** Who worked for nothin' in that war? When they work for nothin', I'll work for nothin'. (Act Three: 125).

It indicates that Joe Keller has a false assumption towards his society. He assumes all people will do as him, that is makes money in the very hard condition.

As a producer of war-materials, Joe Keller has been given the chance to produce the parts of airplane engine, particularly in producing the cylinder heads. He gets a profitable contract from the government to supply the



Army Air Force with the cylinder heads. It means that he has to keep the production in stock so that they are always available for the government.

The trust provided by government to Joe Keller brings him into the very important position. Consequently, he also gets the greater responsibility than before. Being trusted to supply the Army Air Force with the cylinder heads, Joe Keller must be responsible to the quality of his factory's products. It is due to the fact that these products are needed by the Army Air Force which's lacking of the cylinder heads. Moreover, it's the war time when the American Army and American people as a whole was struggling to defend the country and to win the war. That's way, the war-materials and the military-aids were needed, especially the cylinder heads.

The quality of the cylinder heads takes an important role in the war. Cylinder head is the most crucial part of airplane engine. Without it the airplane engine is nothing. Then, the airplane will be useless as long as the engine doesn't work well. When the airplane cannot be operated, it will cause a decrease in the power of American Army. Because, the airplanes or military planes are the main power of the Army Air Force in particular and American Army in general. However, the existence of the

military planes is very important in that war. They are the key forces which will help determine whether America will win the war or whether she will be defeated.

Joe Keller should be responsible for the quality of his cylinder heads means that he has to make his products in high standard of quality or in the best quality. It will be realized if Joe Keller really gives more attention to the process of producing the products and make the products honestly and clearly.

But in fact, Joe Keller has made and sold the defective products to his consumers. He produced the cylinder heads dishonestly, he told his business partner to repair the the cracked cylinder heads and send them to the Army Air Force.

GEORGE: So Joe told him .... on the phone he told him to weld, cover up the cracks in any way he could, and ship them out. (Act Two: 101).

Those cylinder heads, then, to be put in the military planes. During the mission, these aircrafts subsequently crashed and lead to the death of twenty-one pilots.

KELLER: It was too late. The paper, it was all over the front page, twenty-one went down, it was too late. (Act Two: 115).

This fact goes to prove that Joe Keller has forgotten his social responsibilities. His deeds constitute treachery

to the society and to the country as a whole. However, those cylinder heads are for the Army Air Force. They're put in the military planes and to be operated by the pilots. It means that Joe Keller also must be responsible for the safety of those pilots, because they are the member of his society, too.

At last, we may conclude that actually Joe Keller has a great social responsibilities. His social position in the society gives him a greater responsibility either to his society or to his country as a whole. He should be responsible to the people outside his home as well as in his own home. He also should be responsible for his society's interests and for his country's expectations of him. But in fact, Joe Keller has denied his social responsibilities. He makes use of the war situation to get profit and to earn as much money as possible from his business.

**KELLER:** Chris .... Chris, I did it for you, it was a chance and I took it for you. I'm sixty-one years old, when would I have another chance to make something for you? Sixty-one years old you don't get another chance, do ya? (Act Two: 115).

He thinks that the war is the time for him to gain his fortune and lucky. So he tries hard to use the chance which comes to him to make money for his family. However, his responsibility for his family's needs causes him neglected his social responsibilities.



### 3.3. Kate Keller

She is in her early fifties. Kate is Joe Keller's wife. She is a woman of uncontrolled inspirations and an overwhelming capacity for love. She loves both of her sons, Chris and Larry, so much. It can be seen through her refusal to confront the fact of Larry's death.

**MOTHER:** He's not dead, so there's no argument! Now come! (Act One: 82).

**MOTHER:** Because if he's not coming back, then I'll kill myself! (Act One: 73).

She believes that Larry is still alive somewhere. She is so sure that Larry will come back as a man, reported in Newspaper, who turned up after missing in the war.

Kate is a woman who has strong beliefs in astrological cases. To make sure herself about Larry's fate, she asks someone to make a horoscope. She wants to know is whether November twenty-fifth was a favourable day for Larry. It's the day when Larry was reported missing. If November twenty-fifth was Larry's favourable day, then it would practically impossible for him to have died on that day. In other words, it's completely possible Larry's alive somewhere. This is Kate's hope.

**KELLER:** Oh, Kate asked you to make a horoscope?

**FRANK:** Yeah, she wants to find out is whether November twenty-fifth was a favourable day for Larry. (Act One: 60).



Her conviction that Larry is still alive confirmed by Ann's failure to marry. Kate thinks that Ann's failure to marry is the evidence of her similar faith in Larry's survival. This fact, however, provokes a difficulty for Chris who wants to marry Ann Deever. She doesn't allow her son, Chris, to marry Ann Deever because the girl is Larry's fiancée. More than that, her agreement for the marriage between Chris and Ann Deever means the signal of the end of her hope. That is why, Kate will never allow Chris to marry Ann Deever.

CHRIS: And I'm his brother and he's dead, and I'm marrying his girl.

MOTHER: Never, never in this world!

CHRIS: Mother, Mother -

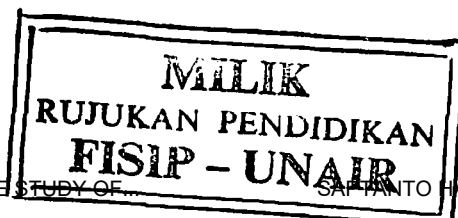
MOTHER: Wait, wait -

CHRIS: How long? How long?

MOTHER, rolling out of her: Till he comes; for ever and ever till he comes! (Act Two: 113).

The quotation clarifies Kate's viewpoint about Larry. She persists in defending her beliefs that exactly Larry is alive. Her statement, "wait, wait -" indicates that Kate is still waiting for Larry's coming. Besides, she wants to prevent Chris in order to not to continue his intention to marry Ann Deever. Because, Kate's so sure that Larry is still alive and she hopes he will come back soon.

Kate understands that Larry is a pilot and she has known if her son's reported missing in the war mission. However, it is very hard for Kate to confront the reality.



Larry is her own son. And as a mother, Kate will never accept the fact of her son's death. She realizes that Larry's reported missing with his airplane. But, Kate believes that Larry's just missing and he will turn up someday. Eventhough Chris had tried to make sure Kate about Larry's death, she always refused to accept the fact.

Being confrontated by Chris continuously, she said that if Larry's dead, it means his father killed him.

**MOTHER:** Altogether! To Chris, but not facing them: Your brother's alive, darling, because if he's dead, your father killed him. Do you understand me now? As long as you live, that boy is alive. God does not let a son be killed by his father. Now you see, don't you? Now you see. (Act Two: 114).

The above quotation shows us that her refusal to accept the fact of her son's death is based on her own conviction that God will never let a son be killed by his father. Her statement, however, impresses us that Kate as if knows something dealing with her husband, Joe Keller. To know more about it, let's see her conversation with George.

**MOTHER:** Well, sure ... To George: I mean except for that flu. George stands perfectly still. Well, it slipped my mind, don't look at me that way. He wanted to go to the shop but he couldn't lift himself off the bed. (Act Two: 111).

It indicates that Kate actually knows what had happened with Joe Keller and his business partner, Steve Deever. At that time, Steve found something wrong with the cylin-

der heads. They out of process with some defects. Then, he called Joe Keller to come to the factory. But, Joe Keller never came to the factory. On the phone Joe Keller told Steve to weld, cover up the cracked cylinder heads and ship them out to the Army Air Force. That's the fact. In front of George, Kate tried to hide her husband's evil or guilty. She said that Joe Keller actually wanted to go to the factory but he couldn't lift himself off the bed. Clearly, Kate knows that Joe Keller told Steve Deever to ship the defective parts of airplane engine to the Army. But she tells a lie in front of Steve Deever's son. And now, when she is confronted by Chris, Kate reveals her husband's guilty, finally.

Indeed, Kate never knows that the cracked cylinder heads to be put in the P-40 only. She just knows that Joe Keller told his business partner to ship those defective parts out to the Army Air Force. She thinks that if Larry is dead, of course, it must be caused by the cracked cylinder heads. That is why, she said that Joe Keller must be responsible for it.

However, it is very hard for Kate to say the real fact. It makes a conflict in her mind finally. First, if she doesn't reveal her husband's guilty, she will not have any reason to forbid Chris who wants to marry Ann Deever. It means that she should confront the fact of Larry's death, and let Chris to marry Ann Deever. Second, if she



says the real fact, it will reveal her husband's guilty. That is really Kate Keller's inner conflict.

At last, we see that Kate prefers to reveal her husband's guilty than to accept the fact of Larry's death. In this case, her feeling as a mother dominates her mind. Her decision to reveal Joe Keller's guilty is her final card to prevent the marriage between Chris and Ann Deever which will signal the end of her hope.

Kate's confession is clearly going to force Joe Keller into the corner. Because, it makes Chris wants to know more about the truth. Then, Kate tries to seduce Joe Keller in order to confess his guilty and explain all of things which ever happened to his son, Chris. Kate realizes that Chris will always confront her and Joe Keller as long as he doesn't find the clear answer yet. Really, his determination to confront his mother is more caused by Kate's obstinacy that always refuses to accept the fact of Larry's death. But Kate is finally defeated by a letter which Ann now reveals, a letter in which the missing son had announced his intention of committing suicide because of his father's action.

MOTHER, as she sees ANN taking a letter from her pocket: What's that?

ANN; ... I thought I'd show it to you only if there was no other way to settle Larry in your mind

MOTHER: Larry? Snatches letter from ANN's hand.

ANN: He wrote it to me just before - MOTHER opens and begins to read letter. (Act Three: 122)

Kate reads Larry's letter from Ann that's written at the day before he died. After reading it, she realizes that her son really has already died. Larry committed suicide because he's ashamed of her father's action. And Kate accept the fact of her son's death finally.

### 3.4. Chris Keller

He is thirty-two years old; the older son of Joe Keller. Like his father, Chris solidly build, a listener, He is a man of capable immense affection and loyalty. During the war, he joined up the military service. Now he is working at his father's factory. Chris loves his parents a great deal, especially his father.

ANN: You're the only one who loves his parents.  
(Act One: 83).

Chris is a militant idealist. He revers the principle of universal brotherhood and human responsibility. His beliefs or idealism is partly as a result of the self-sacrifice of men in the war and partly as a result of his own culpability for the death of all the members of his company during the war.

CHRIS: Everything was being destroyed, see, but it seemed to me that one new thing was made. A kind of responsibility. Man for Man. (act One: 85).

Chris is distinct with his father, Joe Keller. He is not fully a materialist. He doesn't assault capitalism, but he merely wishes to be able to endorse it without guilt. His bitter experience during the war where he lost almost all the members of his platoon, gives much influence upon his mind and personality. As a company commander he feels unfair to let his soldiers die, while he himself to be a survivor. This fact causes him feels guilty. He always thinks that it is wrong for him to be alive and use everything that came out of other man's sacrifice.

CHRIS: I felt wrong to be alive, to open bank book, to drive new car, to see the new refrigerator. ( Act One: 85. ).

Chris works at his factory's now. They get money and profits from that business, but Chris still feels that way. He doesn't able to flee himself from feeling guilty. The fact that he has refused to allow his father to add his name to that of the family firm is indicative of his own guilty conscience.

KELLER, breaking in: All right, forget it, forget it. I want a clean start for you, Chris. I want a new sign over the plant - Christopher Keller, Incorporated.

CHRIS, a little uneasily: J.O. Keller is good enough.

Sometimes, if he remembers what had happened with his

platoon, he is conscience - stricken. Chris often feels ashamed of everything he got from his father's business.

Actually, Chris doesn't know the real story about his father's deeds. "Tell me George. What happened?" He knows that both of Joe Keller and his business partner, Steve Deever, were arrested and to be put in jail. But at the trial Joe Keller throw the blame on Steve Deever and he's exonerated finally. Chris thinks that it is not Joe Keller, but Steve Deever who had shipped the cracked cylinder heads to the Army Air Force. And Chris assumes that his father's innocent.

CHRIS: The man is innocent, Ann. Remember he was falsely accused one and it put him through hell.  
(Act Two: 95).

The quotation emphasizes that Chris really doesn't know that his father had done a crime action. Chris doesn't understand that Joe Keller had denied his social responsibilities by shipping the cracked cylinder heads to the Army and throwing the blame on somebody else. Chris's an idealist who adores the principle of human responsibility. So he will never let a person to violate the order. This means that eventhough Chris loves his father, but he will never forgive him if his father do a violation to the order.

ANN: Chris, I know how much you love him, but it would never -

Both of Ann Deever and Chris Keller love each other, "Ann I love you. I love you a great deal." (Act One: 84). But, Ann realizes that Chris's mother, Kate Keller, will never permit them to get married. Ann Deever understands what Kate's reason is. She is Larry's fiancée, and Kate believes her son is still alive.

However, Ann Deever is a sensitive girl. She does not want to hurt Kate. Eventhough she knows about Larry's death but, she doesn't reveal it to Kate directly. Ann loves her fiancée but, Larry has gone. She also adores her family but, not to her father, Steve Deever. Ann assumes his father as a man who should be responsible over her fiancée's death.

ANN: What else can you say? When they took him away, I followed him, went to him every visiting-day. I was crying all the time. Until the news came about Larry. Then I realized. It's wrong to pity a man like that. Father or no father, there's only one way to look at him. He knowingly shipped out parts that would crash an airplane. (Act One: 81).

The quotation shows that Ann is a gentle but despite herself capable of holding fast to what she knows. Really, she loves his father, Steve Deever. When he was arrested and to be put in jail, Ann was crying all the time. Until the bad news came about her fiancée. Ann loss her fiancée and she accuses her own father as the main causal factor. Ann thinks that his father knowingly shipped the defective

parts of airplane engine to the Army Air Force. But, she doesn't know that his father's ordered by Joe Keller. She doesn't know the truth. Even she blame her father and justify Joe Keller, "But he was your partner, he dragged you through the mud." (Act One: 81).

When Ann speaks with Sue Bayliss, she gets another facts. Sue says that everybody knows Joe Keller pulled a fast one to get out of jail. And there's not a person on the block who doesn't know the truth. Now Ann realizes that Joe Keller throw the blame on her father. But, her love to Chris forces her not to confront Joe Keller. Even when her brother, George, forbids her to marry Chris by saying that Chris's father has made Steve Deever and his family suffer, Ann still do nothing.

GEORGE: You're not going to marry him.

ANN: Why am I not going to marry him?

George: Because his father destroyed your family.

(Act Two: 100).

It indicates Ann loves Chris so much. She doesn't care with everything that had happened. But, finally she realizes that her willing to marry with Chris is still prevented by Chris's mother, Kate Keller. And it is not an easy problem for her.

Realizing that the problem is very hard to be solved, Ann decides to expose the uncertainty about Larry's death by giving the letter from Larry to Kate Keller. This is

Larry's letter which is written at the day before he was reported missing. Actually, it is not her purpose to hurt Kate Keller. But, she has no other way.

ANN: I came to get married. I hoped .... So I didn't bring this to hurt you. I thought I'd show it to you only if there was no other way to settle Larry in your mind. (Act Three: 122).

The letter given by Ann Deever to Kate Keller, finally become the main key to reveal the death of Larry. It is explained within the letter that Larry'd committed suicide. He crashed off the coast of China November twenty-fifth. His engine didn't fail him. But he died. More than that, it exposes Joe Keller's guilty, too. Because, Larry committed suicide by the reason that he could not help to take ashame over his father's deeds. This means that Ann Deever and Larry's letter play a very important role in exposing of Larry's death and Joe Keller's guilty.





CHAPTER V  
C O N C L U S I O N

Arthur Miller's All My Sons is a play which has often called a social play. It talks much about human life, human character and behaviour. This play also offers the lessons in causality and the sense of social responsibility, that is that the consequences of actions are as real as the actions themselves, and that the individual has to concede a responsibility for the people of his society.

During the war, there occurred approximately twenty-one military planes crashed with their pilots. It's found out that those incidents had been caused by the cracked cylinder heads. Now the society has been wondering seriously whose fault it might have been because they were not attacked by the enemy. It must have been somebody's fault. Somebody on the home front must have been involved in this 'murder' case.

Then, it is known that the cracked cylinder heads which cause the crashing of twenty-one military planes are produced by Joe Keller's factory. This means that Joe Keller is the accused. For coming to the final judgement, we have to consider his self-interest and his social responsibility firstly. Based on the analysis on chapter IV, the writer concludes that:

1. Joe Keller is a strong-willed person. His self-interest is very high. It dominates his mind and gives him motivation, particularly in his economic behaviour. As a business man, Joe Keller always wants to use time and every good chance to make profit and money from his business.
2. Joe Keller's social responsibility is extremely weak. As a business man, he'd neglected the business ethics. And as a member of a society he ignored the important things in his relationship with the people around him. He had forgotten them, as he forgot his society and his responsibility to his country.
3. Joe Keller is guilty. Supported by his strong interest to gain as much profits as possible and caused by his weak social responsibility, Joe Keller expressly shipped the cracked cylinder heads to the Army.
4. Joe Keller committed suicide as the ultimate way to prove that he is guilty. And his decision to commits suicide is exactly his own final judgement.

After reading and analysing the play All My Sons, the writer gets the following impression on Arthur Miller. He has successfully portrayed and presented the slice of life into his works. All My Sons itself reflects some important problems or aspects of human life, such as:

1. A husband, represented by Joe Keller, who adores his

- family dearly. He loves his wife and sons, and he is responsible for their needs. He is really a good husband and a good father, but he fails to be a good man.
2. The balance of life. Man is an individual as well as a social being. He has both of his self-interests and social responsibilities. To make a harmonious relationship between self and society, he should be able to keep the balance of his self-interests and his social responsibilities.
  3. Suicide as the final decision to run away from the life problems is the wrong way. There is no law or religion which will justify the suicide action. It's the accursed way that will be committed by an infidel or a weak-minded person only.