Study Guide Strategy For *Death of a Salesman*

**Purpose:**
The purpose of this strategy is to help students have a better understanding of the causes and effects that take place in the play. This strategy also allows students to prepare for difficult test questions.

**Directions:**

*Step 1* After reading Act one discuss in class some of the causes and effects to get students started on the topic.

*Step 2* Hand out the cause and effect study strategy and tell students to write the cause or effect in the space provided. Writing a page number to support their answer could be helpful as well.

**Rationale:**
It is important that students understand how specific events in the play lead to specific outcome and results. When students learn about these causes and effects they can come to better understand each of the characters’ attitude and the choices they make.
Directions: In your reading, find the causes that led to the effects listed. Write each cause in the space provided.

1. Cause: ______________________________________________________________
   Effect: Willy Loman is in a bad mood at the beginning of Act one.

2. Cause: ______________________________________________________________
   Effect: Willy thinks Biff is a lazy, irresponsible son.

3. Cause: ______________________________________________________________
   Effect: Biff isn't happy with the life that he's leading.

4. Cause: ______________________________________________________________
   Effect: Happy want to follow his father's footsteps and become a salesman as well.

5. Cause: ______________________________________________________________
   Effect: Biff resents his father when he's older.

6. Cause: ______________________________________________________________
   Effect: Willy dies at the end.

7. Cause: ______________________________________________________________
   Effect: Nobody comes to Willy Loman's funeral.