**All My Sons /** Arthur Miller

**BASIC UNDERSTANDING QUESTIONS**

1. What is the setting of the play?
2. Write FOUR facts you know about **all the characters**.
3. What part of the newspaper does Keller read?
4. Why was the tree planted?
5. Why does Frank do Larry’s horoscope?
6. Chris tells Joe that they made a terrible mistake with Mother by **"being dishonest with her.**" How have they been dishonest?
7. In Act I, Ann disappoints Kate. In what way?
8. What do you learn about Ann’s father in Act I?
9. At the beginning of the play, Kate says, "…everything decided to happen at the same time." What happened?
10. Why does George come to see the Kellers?
11. Why did George go to visit his father in jail?
12. At the beginning of Act III, Jim says to mother, “Don’t be afraid, Kate, I know. I’ve always known.” What has Jim always known?
13. In Act III, Ann wants to make a deal with Mother (Kate). What deal does she want to make?
14. How does the family find out the truth about Larry's death?

**CRITICAL THINKING QUESTIONS**

1. Mother: **“The boy is coming. Be smart.”** Why does mother say this to Keller?
2. Why is George wearing his father’s hat?
3. Why does Ann wait until the end of the play to show Kate Larry’s letter?
4. Keller: **"Sure, he was my son. But I think to him they were all my sons."** What does Keller mean by this statement about Larry?
5. Why are we surprised by Kate’s reaction to the fallen tree?
6. What is Larry's role in the play?
7. In Act I, why does Kate demand that Joe stop playing the jail game with Bert?
8. In Act I Keller says to Chris, **"I want a new sign over the plant – Christopher Keller, Incorporated."** Chris answers, **"J.O. Keller is good enough."** Why doesn't Chris want his name on the business?
9. In Act I Joe Keller explains Steve's decision to send out the cylinder heads. He says, **"The man was a fool, but don't make a murderer out of him."** Why do you think that Joe makes excuses for Steve?
10. In Act I Kate says, **“It was too soon to plant a tree for him** [Larry].” How do Kate and Chris disagree about this? Give information from the play to support your answer.
11. Why does Joe cry out “a father is a father”?
12. Why do you think Arthur Miller included the scene between Bert and Keller in Act 1?
13. Keller to Mother: “You wanted money, so I made money. What must I be forgiven for?” What does this quote tell us about Joe’s attitude to money?
14. Sue accuses Chris of “phony idealism.” Is she right? Explain.

**POST-READING QUESTIONS**

1. **A happy way of living is thought of by many Americans as something that can be achieved by anyone in the U.S., especially by working hard and becoming successful. “With good jobs, a nice house, two children, and plenty of money, they believed were living the American dream.** (*The Merriam-Webster’s Learner’s Dictionary*)

Explain how this information helps you understand Joe Keller’s behavior in the play.

1. **One cannot escape the past. It affects the present and molds the future.**

Make a connection between the above statement and the play.