

Other characters and Loman: Act One

Look back through the conversations listed below and then answer the questions that follow.

**Willy and Bernard from:**

Bernard: Biff, where are you? (p.19)  
to  
Bernard goes off. The LOMANS laugh. (p.20)

**Willy and The Woman from:**

Willy: 'Cause I get so lonely (p.24)  
to  
The WOMAN disappears in to the dark. (p.25)

**Bernard and Willy from:**

Bernard: (entering on the run) Where is he? (p.25)  
to  
Willy: Get outa here! (p.26)

**Charley and Willy from:**

Charley: Everything all right? (p.27)  
to  
Willy: (slamming the door after him) Ignoramus! (p.31)

**Willy and Ben from:**

Ben: (chuckling) So this is Brooklyn, eh? (p.29)  
to  
Ben: ... And, by God, I was rich! (He goes off into the darkness around the right corner of the house.) p.35)

**Charley and Willy from:**

Charley enters in knickers, even before the boys are gone. (p.34)  
to  
Charley: ... I'll take some of your Port and money. (He laughs at Willy and exits.) p.35

**Willy and Bernard:**

Bernard: (rushing in) The watchman's chasing Biff!  
Willy: (angrily) Shut up! He's not stealing anything! (p.34)

1. How many of the conversations take place in the past and how many in the present? What difference do you notice in the conversations depending on their time?
2. How does Miller present other characters' attitudes to Loman? Are they friendly; helpful; kind; loving, loyal; sarcastic; unkind; cynical; boastful or something else?
3. What effect does Willy's relationship with each character have on the conversations (eg, whether they are a friend, a relation etc). How do you account for these differences?
4. How do you think Miller wants us as an audience to react to Willy during these conversations?
5. Think of one word for each conversation that summarises Willy's behaviour towards the other character (for example: patronizing; obsequious; angry) and explain the reason for your choice.