

## Salesman's Symbols Answer Key

### Seeds

- Literal Object/Action: Willy plants seeds in his yard at night.
- What It Represents: Willy's desire to leave a legacy and provide for his family, despite feeling barren and unsuccessful.
- Quote/Scene: "Nothing's planted. I don't have a thing in the ground."
- Explanation: The seeds reflect Willy's desperation to create something lasting, symbolizing both his failure and his final futile hope.

### Stockings

- Literal Object/Action: Linda mends stockings, while Willy gives new ones to his mistress.
- What It Represents: Guilt, betrayal, and Willy's inability to provide properly for his wife.
- Quote/Scene: Willy angrily snaps, "I won't have you mending stockings in this house!"
- Explanation: Stockings become a reminder of Willy's affair and of his failure as a provider, highlighting themes of betrayal and illusion.

### Flute

- Literal Object/Action: The haunting sound of the flute is heard throughout the play.
- What It Represents: Nostalgia for the past, Willy's father's free-spirited life, and the lost promise of freedom.
- Quote/Scene: The play opens and closes with the sound of a flute.
- Explanation: The flute connects Willy to his father's success as a flute maker and salesman, contrasting with Willy's own struggles. It underscores the theme of longing for simpler, freer times.