All My Sons:

* Set in a militaristic background it explores concepts of a man’s personal integrity, individual and family pride and the pursuit of dreams in the form of a traditional tragedy
* Allusion through the biblical story of Cain and Abel in the Old testament that disguises itself as a modern day version of brother-hood. Cain is Joe and Abel is Larry and the other pilots who died.
* Father-son conflict used as a dramatic technique, it uses to create tension and creates a climax of the whole play. Once the son experiences societal values, he realizes how flawed the father’s values and behaviours are and therefore rebels against his father.
* Joe Keller represents the older generation in his realist and practical thinking whilst Chris is full of romanticism and idealism. (contrast in characters) Creates a generation gap and is the driving force of the conflict.
* We can assume that Joe was a type of man who worked hard from what he says to Kate, his wife, “I should put him out when he was ten like I was put out, and make him earn his keep. Then he’d know how a buck is made in this world”
* Joe Keller – Horatio Alger (author from the 19th century, whose characters are people from “rags to riches.”) Alger’s protagonists gain wealth and honour, realizing the American Dream
* Joe’s obsession with the American Dream are linked to the perceptions of fatherhood or “father image”. His decisions and actions were all for the benefit of his family, and providing for them, not realizing how it affected others outside of that world i.e. the pilots who died.
* What supports a father is his labelled success that can be passed down to his sons, that is why he puts the blame of the cracked cylinders on his partner, Steve, in order to keep the business and support his family.
* Chris’ experiences in the war allowed him to gain a deeper understanding of society and the values of man. He is distraught about Joe’s decision eventuating in the death of 21 pilots who were essentially protecting Joe and his family as well as the country.
* Loughlin regards All My Sons as a modern morality play.