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[**All My Sons Act 1 (Answer Key)**](http://mrheshamenglish.wordpress.com/all-my-sons-act-1-answer-key/)

1. **1. What does the blown down apple tree symbolize?**

Larry’s tree was a tree that had been planted in remembrance of Larry, who would have been twenty-seven this month and who has been reported missing in the war on November 25th. The blown down tree symbolizes Larry on stage, though he never appears. The snapping of the tree reflects a disaster.

1. **2. What was Frank working on? Why?**

Frank had been working on a horoscope for Larry, according to Kate’s demand to do so. He wanted to prove that November 25th was Larry’s favourable day. (A favourable day for a person is a fortunate day, according to his stars). If he proved this so, it would be practically impossible for Larry to have died on his favourable day.

1. **3. “I would love to help humanity on a Warner Brothers’ salary.” Comment**

Dr. Jim said that to Frank in Keller’s backyard, when Frank told Dr. Jim that he had seen a film about a doctor who worked in his basement discovering things. He told Dr. Jim that he ought to do that. Dr. Jim replied that he was ready to serve humanity but he should be given a salary as big as that of Warner Brothers given to actors. Here he is mocking Frank showing that his need for money is more important than his desire to help humanity. This may prove Dr. Jim to be more materialistic yet he would prove to be the opposite later.

1. **4. “Well, that’s what a war does…” Comment page 9**

Joe Keller said that to Lydia while they were talking about the fact that Ann hasn’t got married yet though Lydia is married and had three kids. Keller replies that this was what the war did to them, as he had lost one son in the war, Larry who was reported missing, who was supposed to marry Ann.

1. **5. How did Chris threaten Keller? Why?**

Chris threatened his father that if they didn’t agree upon his marriage to Ann, he would leave home, marry Ann and live somewhere else. He asked his father to help him convince his mother to bless the marriage.

1. **6. What game does Keller play with the children of the neighbourhood?**

Bert, a young boy comes to Mr. Keller. He is a neighbour whom Mr. Keller jokingly appointed as a policeman to keep his eyes open on the neighbourhood. He comes with some news for Keller. He takes the matter seriously and thinks himself a secret policeman.

1. **7. “No more roses. It’s so funny…” Comment page 17**

Mother said this to Chris and Keller in the backyard of the house. She believes that every thing related to Larry has happened at the same time; just to show that he is coming This month is Larry’s birthday, his tree is blown down, Ann comes, she stumbles over his baseball glove which she hasn’t seen for years. Although she feels sad about the snapping of the tree, she never gives up hope that Larry is still alive and that he wil be back one day.

1. **8. Give an account of Kate’s dream. What does it reflect?**

Mother tells them about a dream she has seen. She dreamed of Larry flying his plane, his face was so clear and real that she could touch him. He cried to her. Mom……….. Mom and then she woke up at the noise of the wind blowing down Larry’s tree. This dream reflects her occupied mind about Larry. It also reflects,

according to Kate, that Larry might be in danger, and the idea is reinforced by the snapping of his tree, and being in danger shatters away the belief that he had been dead, which has long been thought by Joe and Chris.

1. **9. Explain how Keller faced the people after the trial? What was the result? What does this show about Joe’s character?**

He advised Ann to face people as he did before and every thing would be alright, because the Deevers gave people the chance to keep talking about her father’s crime by leaving to New York. On the day of the trial, all the people thought that Joe Keller was a criminal, the beast who caused 21 P40s to crash in Australia. He was guilty as hell according to them that day, but he faced them all courageously with the court paper which announced his innocence. He kept settling in the town and faced them all. The result was that they stopped talking and Keller had a bigger factory than before, and he became a respected man again, bigger than ever.

1. **10. “What’s the matter with you? You know Larry never flew a P40.” …-So who flew a p 40, pigs? Comment**
2. **11. What was Chris ashamed of?**

Chris felt ashamed to live any more than his companions did. He was a commander of a battalion. He acted as if he was a father to everyone there. They respected him too much and he started to teach them his idealism; how to think of others, how to find enjoyment in sacrifice. The word -I- had no meaning in the battle field. They all sacrificed themselves for each other. The only one who survived was Chris, though he was the one who taught them how to give up life happily.

1. **12. How did Joe defend Steve? What do those justifications reflect?**

Joe asked Chris not to make a murderer out of Steve, but he should take it human. He said that Steve was a fool but not a murderer. He had a weak character. He was scared of loud voices. The major was whipping him over the telephone asking for cylinder heads, and all of a sudden half day’s production of cylinder heads was cracked; a fine hair-line crack. Steve was afraid of both Joe and the Major. Moreover; he was sure a hundred percent that the planes would hold up. He meant no harm. He didn’t know that he would cause that disaster.

Keller’s justifications of Steve’s innocence shows how worried he is about the reality of the crime. It’s in a sense shows clear self-defense of Joe Keller himself, least when the reality of the crime is uncovered, Chris wouldn’t take his father as a murderer, but would rather take it as a human weakness or flaw.

1. **13. “All right Joe… just… be smart.” Comment**

Kate said these words to Joe Keller as closing lines to act one. Kate was drawing Joe’s attention to the danger that might take place because of George’s return. Joe was evading her warning against George, though she mentioned some strong reasons why they should fear him. George had kept believing that Joe was guilty all through the trial, and now he’s a lawyer and can handle matters more efficiently, moreover; all of a sudden he visits his father in jail after three years and takes an airplane to go to Columbus, then decides directly to go back to the Kellers. They suspected that he should have discovered something important about the case, Kate was afraid that George might open the old case again. She told Joe to act smartly with George, the matter which reflects their certain feeling of guilt.

1. **14. What’s the dramatic effect of the closing lines of Act 1?**

Act one closes with Keller and Kate brainstormed. Kate is very suspicious as to why George is hurrying to his father in Columbus. She draws Keller’s attention to the decisive danger that might take place, but Keller evades her questions and shows ignorance. It’s clear to us now that Kate knows something different about the case. It has long been a secret, but once George is crabbing for it, they should take certain precautions. Keller’s defence of Steve and Kate’s fears of George’s coming give us a strong belief that Keller has a secret, which will prove him guilty if revealed.

Model answers for important quotations

***“No more roses…….decides to happen at the same time…. .”***

Kate said these words to Chris and Keller’s garden, when Kate showed sadness about the breaking of Larry’s tree. She sprinkled some petals over Larry’s tree while proving that he was alive. She said that everything that relates to Larry come back at the same time, Ann comes back, his tree blows down, this month is his birthday and she stumbled over his baseball glove in the basement. Kate is acting as if Larry is dead when she sprinkled the flowers as if on his grave, but in the same time she’s trying to prove that he’s active. It shows that Kate is a contradictive unrealistic character that suffers a serve inner conflict.

***“She knows what I know…..”***

Kate said these words to Keller in the back yard of the Keller’s garden when Keller supposed that Ann might not be waiting for Larry. Keller was trying to help Chris marry Ann, the idea which would never be accepted by Kate. Kate says that Ann knows that Larry is coming back and she’s waiting for him like herself, then Kate said that Ann was a faithful girl and she was like a rock that never changes. That shows how Kate is unrealistic.

***“There’s no jail here. I want you to stop this jail business… .”***

Kate said these words to Joe Keller in the backyard of the Keller’s garden when Joe was practising the jail game with Bert. Kate was furious to find Joe playing such a suspicious game with kids. She hated to hear the word ***“jail”*** which Joe Keller was involved in. Her sudden anger about that game reflects her worry about jail, the matter which lets us be suspicious about Joe and Kate; moreover, it reflects their feeling of guilt and fear to be uncovered. That’s why she asked Joe to stop the whole jail game and told Bert that there was no jail in their house.

***“I didn’t want to take any of it. And I guess it included you.”***

Chris said that to Ann in the backyard of the Keller’s garden when he was telling his experience in war and express his feelings towards his father’s money. Chris thinks that his father’s money is ***“loot”*** ; it has blood on it because it was gained during the war. Chris felt ashamed of his father’s money and didn’t want to take any of it. This highlights Chris’s idealistic Character, as he really differentiates between people who sacrifice in war and those who are only doing business, even if it was his father. He feels the same way about his him and his money.

***“The man was a fool, but don’t make a murderer out of him..”***

Joe Keller said that to Chris when Chris declared his belief about Steve as a murderer; the one who killed 21 pilots. Joe tried hard to defend Steve and justify his crime saying that Steve was a fool and had a weak character. He was always scared of loud voices. During the war, the major was whipping them over the telephone every half an hour asking for cylinder heads, and all of a sudden, that day’s production of cylinder heads was cracked – a fine hair line crack. Steve also was afraid of Joe Keller as if he got rid of those cracked cylinder heads, it would be a great loss to the business. Moreover, Keller said that Steve was sure 100% that the planes would hold up. He covered the cracks himself and sent them, but he meant no harm.

Joe was trying to correct Chris’s idea about Steve least in the future he might be discovered to be the real criminal, so Chris would take him as a fool, not a murderer. It’s considered a sort of self-defence.

***“Alright Joe,… just be smart.”***

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**More Questions**

**1)What was Larry’s tree ?**

Larry’s tree was a tree that had been planted in remembrance of Larry himself who would have been twenty-seven this month and who has been reported missing in the war on November 25th.

**2)Who was working on a horoscope for Larry ?**

Frank had been working on a horoscope for Larry, He was one of their neighbours. He didn’t believe that Larry had died on November 25th because it is his favourable day.

**3)Why did Ann come to Keller’s house ?**

She came back after three years as she was invited by Chris who has been sending her letters all this period. He has loved her so much that she could feel that through letters and fell in love with him also.

**4)Who was Steve Deever ?**

Steve Deveer’s family was Keller’s neighbours and Steve was Keller’s partner in work. Steve has been imprisoned for selling crackers cylinder heads to the army, which caused the death of 21 pilots in the war.

**5)Why did Steve’s family leave to New York ?**

The family left to New York after Steve’s imprisonment because they feared the scandal.

**6)Why did Ann cut her relation with her father ?**

Ann was Larry’s girl friend. She couldn’t forgive her father when she knew about Larry’s death.

**7)Why wasn’t it easy for Chris to marry Ann ?**

The problem was how to tell her mother who couldn’t believe in Larry’s death and who consider them betraying Larry if they got married.

**8)Why was Kate convinced that Larry hadn’t died ?**

She was convinced that Larry hadn’t died because Frank told her that November 25th was Larry’s favourable day. She also used to read in the newspaper everyday that there were people who were reported missed and came back after more than three years, Kate was convinced that Ann hadn’t got married until now because she also was convinced that Larry hadn’t died.

**9)What did Chris ask his father for ?**

Chris asked his father to help him in telling Kate about his wish to marry Ann.

**10)How did Chris threaten his father ?**

He threatened him that he would marry Ann and would go away leaving working with his father.

**11)What was the terrible mistake that they had done with Kate ?**

They “have made a terrible mistake with mother” for not telling her the truth and trying to convince her.

**12)What was Keller’s reply when Chris had asked for his help ?**

Keller tried to convince him that Larry’s death was a truth to him and to Chris but not to the mother “To you it is, and to me. But not to him.”

**13)What bad omens about Larry do we have in this act ?**

Kate had a dream about Larry in which he was flying over the house as usual and his face was so clear and near that she thought to catch him. He was crying to her “Mom….Mom” that she could hear him like he was in the room. Kate connected between this dream, the destruction of the tree and Ann’s arrival. Then, she found Larry’s

baseball gloves which she hadn’t seen since Larry had been reported missing.

**14)How did the Deevers give people a chance to speak about them?**

Keller told Ann that they gave the people a chance to talk about them by going away to New York.

**15)How was Keller a generous man ?**

He asked her about her father and told her that she should convince him to come back home and would find his job in Keller’s shop.

**16)What was Ann’s reply when Keller offered her father a Job?**

Ann thanked him for being generous with her father but she told him that she hadn’t visited Steve for a long time and that she didn’t know anything about him.

**17)How did Keller act when he was freed ?**

Keller told Ann how it was difficult for him to face all the neighbours after he was freed. He came out of his car and walked slowly down the street with a smile on his face. He was a beast in their eyes; He was the one who sold the cracked cylinder heads of the P40 to the Army Air Force and death of 21 fighters whose planes crashed in Australia.

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***Questions On Act 1***

**1- What is the dramatic effect of closing lines of Act 1?**

Act one closes with Keller and Kate brainstormed. Kate is very suspicious as to why George is hurrying to his father in Columbus. She draws Keller’s attention to the decisive danger that might take place, but Keller evades her questions and shows ignorance. It’s clear to us now that Kate knows something different about the case. It has long been a secret, but once George is crabbing for it, they should take certain precautions. Keller’s defence of Steve and Kate’s fears of George’s coming give us a strong belief that Keller has a secret, which will prove him guilty if revealed.

**2- Explain how Keller faced the people after the trial. What was the result?**

**\*\*What does this show about Joe Keller’s character**?

Keller tells Ann how he faced all the neighbours when he was acquitted. He came out of his car and walked slowly down the street with a smile on his face. In their eyes he was a beast! He was the person who sold cracked cylinder heads to the Army Air Force; the person who made twenty-one P-40 planes crash in Australia, causing twenty-one young pilots to die. Walking down the street they thought him guilty, but he wasn’t, and he had a paper from court declaring him innocent. Fourteen months later he had one of the best shops in the state and became a respected man again, bigger than ever.

\*\* He could not be responsible and could not face himself with truth. He seemed to be unconscious of his guilt.

**3- Give an account of Kate’s dream.**

She dreamed of Larry flying his plane, his face was so clear and real that she could touch him. He cried to her. Mom ……….. Mom and then she woke up at the noise of the wind blowing down Larry’s tree.

**6- Ann considered her father criminal, but Keller considered him just a fool.” Explain.**

Ann considers her father responsible for the death of her boy friend, Larry and the twenty-one pilots, Keller tries to comfort Ann by telling her that Larry has never flown a P40. Keller explained to Ann and Chris the story of the cracked cylinder heads during the war. Keller told them that Steve meant no harm, of course because he believed that the mechanics in the army would find out about the cracked heads and send them back to the shop. When Chris agrees with Ann and he considers Steve a murderer Keller tells him that the man was weak, but he shouldn’t make a murderer out of him.

**7- What was Chris ashamed of?**

During the war he was the head of a group of soldiers, all were brave men. They sacrificed themselves for each other. He felt ashamed to be the only survivor among them. He was the one who taught them idealism and how to sacrifice and still he is the only one living now. He couldn’t stand the idea of living happily with a family of his own.

**9- Why is Keller so keen on defending Steve Deever?**

He said that one ought to forget and forgive as Steve meant no harm, of course because he believed that the mechanics in the army would find out about the cracked heads and send them back to the shop. May be because considering Steve guilty means considering Keller guilty too.

**All My sons**

**Act 1**

**Questions & Model Answers**

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**10-How did Chris feel towards the commitment of his companions during the war?**

Chris felt ashamed to live any more than his companions did. He was a commander of a battalion. He acted as if he was a father to everyone there. They respected him too much and he started to teach them his idealism; how to think of others, how to find enjoyment in sacrifice. The word -I- had no meaning in the battle field. They all sacrificed themselves for each other. The only one who survived was Chris, though he was the one who taught them how to give up life happily.

**11-Why does mother have to fear George?**

George turned up to visit his father in Columbus – the jail-

after the three years. He’s coming back to the Kellers in an airplane, so Kate got worried because Steve had always been saying that Joe was responsible for the crime, and George believed his father all during the trial, but disowned his father after he was convicted and put to jail. Now all of a sudden George visits his father in jail, and comes back so hurriedly to the Kellers; moreover, George is now a lawyer and has his own office and can handle matters more efficiently. Kate fears opening the old case once more.

**12-How did Joe Keller react after he was acquitted ?**

**What did he advise Ann to do?**

He advised Ann to face people as he did before and every thing would be alright, because the Deevers gave people the chance to keep talking about her father’s crime by leaving to New York. On the day of the trial, all the people thought that Joe Keller was a criminal, the beast who caused 21 P40s to crash in Australia. He was guilty as hell according to them that day, but he faced them all courageously with the court paper which announced his innocence. He kept settling in the town and faced them all. The result was that they stopped talking and Keller had a bigger factory than before, and he became a respected man again, bigger than ever.