P.72

Chris was the moral example for Ann and George as forone who was guilty. George doesn't bring new evidence but he's telling things from his father's pointing of view. During the trial both Chris and George were in the war.

Since it was 1 man's words against the other the judges believe the stronger man.

This was the reason George wen to see his father. Steve's version:

1. To Steve's misfortune he was the first one to come to work that day
2. The fact that Steve called again shows that Joe didn't intend to come to work
3. Steve was so weak that he couldn't decide himself to stop production.
4. Joe made up an excuse that he was sick only after he knew about to problem in the plant.

In the first trial they were both found guilty but in the appeal Joe found guilty but in the appeal Joe convinced the judges of his innocence.

Notice the word sick which was repeated in the play.

Discussion-should one obey illegal or immoral orders?

P.88-89

Mother knows the connection between Larry's death and Keller's crime so she turns around so not to look him in the eye. She speaks with emotion not reason. This was hinted in act 1 but now it is said out loud. The same ridiculous claim 1, 2 – question 3- conclusion

p. 90 line 7 Keller does a cold calculation – 40 years of experience as opposed to the lives of 21 pilots

Keller thought he could spot the defect and make good ones lines 21-22

Chris loses his temper and threatens Keller physically – very unlike Chris. They are still not talking about the same thing p.89 lines 28-29

Chris demands an explanation and then comes Keller's lame explanation

Keller's excuses escalate p. 90 lines7-30

1. To save the business
2. He hoped they wouldn't use them: a childish excuse
3. The worst excuse – I didn't for you – lays the blame on Chris

P.90 lines30-32

Keller tries to work on Chris emotions and pity for this old man Chris doesn’t refer to Keller's last remark he goes on about the cylinder heads. Keller hides behind empty words. If this scene weren’t tragic, it would be comic

They have different set of values

Keller thinks in terms and money and business Chris – human life.

p.91

Chris leaves the stage crying and broken. He is crying about his family his word and himself he doesn’t know how he can go on living now.

P.100

Jim is saying that it's impossible to be a good husband/son without compromising on your honesty. What is your opinion?

Lines 12-14 Mother was hoping Chris knew and just pretended not to know. Chris character – he can't lie and he can't live with a lie. Lines 18-31 Jim related it to his own compromises in life; he uses the metaphor of a star which symbolizes a man's hopes and dreams.

It can't be that Chris didn't know and all the neighbors did.

Mother is worried about the family she only wants him to come back which is natural because she's already lost one son.

P.103

As if this would justify it. lines 6-9

Do you agree that family loyalty takes priority over everything else? Is this what your parents think?

Another understands the disappointment.

* Mother understands that for Chris some things are bigger than family
* Do you think he means it or just says it on an impulse?

Don’t read in class till the end of the play:

\*This is a threat that he carried out at the end. This is the ultimate proof that he believes he's innocent. 100%.

\*Keller compares his two sons and at the end the play we see how wrong he was. Larry didn't compromise he killed himself , and Chris compromised- he came back . The wall of the plant. Larry used to be like Keller but not at the end.

P.111

p.111 lines 11-14 Key sentence in the play: Keller admits his guilt and realizes that he should have felt responsible for all the American pilots. His whole philosophy life was wrong. Family above all, a father is a father, a son is a son they were all his sons means he realized there's something bigger then family and that he had been wrong all along.

P.112

Line 9 :Chris is the one who showed Keller the letter – therefore he feels responsible

1. Mother's comforting him. It's so absurd now to forget and live she is the one who always said that you have to remember Larry how can you suddenly give it up? Would you be satisfied if Keller turned himself in? even knowing he would have gotten capital punishment ?( death penalty)

**Final Notes**

Does the play end on a positive or negative note? Joe doesn't deserve to live – to make the play moral the playwright is like a God – he can give and take life.

1. Joe suicide – poetic justice.
2. It's in line with his weak character – he can't deal with problems – sleeps – death is the final sleep.
3. Larry's and Keller's suicide are for different reasons (they triggered each other) Keller's – out of cowardice, weakness, escape from reality.

Larry's – admirable – out of principle

1. He was ashamed
2. He identified with his soldiers who'd died

Keller is both judge and executioner .

Dramatic irony – Joe's actions destroyed his family – that which he sought to protect all along.

By killing himself he sought to solve the problem he had caused his family.

Keller = Killer or cellar in German – the basement of the house used as the jail in the game – a jail as a metaphor for the guilt he had been carrying all along.