**All My Sons ACT 2**

**1. Who are the Kellers waiting for at the beginning of Act 2?**

They are waiting for George, Ann’s brother, who is coming to visit the Keller

family after visiting their father in jail. He wants to tell the truth from his father

(Steve’s) point of view about what happened during the war with the faulty

cylinder heads in Joe Keller’s factory. He wants to prevent Ann from marrying

**2. What does Sue want from Ann?**

She tries to make Ann feel uncomfortable about her engagement to Chris. She

wants to make Ann see that the whole Keller family is guilty from Keller’s actions

in the war. She tries to make her see “the truth” as she knows it.

**3. What does Sue ask Ann to do after she and Chris are married? What does Ann**

**realize from this conversation?**

She wants her to move away from the neighbourhood as soon as she marries

Chris. She says that Chris has a bad influence on her husband, always trying to

convince him to be more idealistic and go into medical research. She says that

he also gives her Jim a bad conscience about not being good enough or caring

**4. What secret is revealed at the end of Act 2?**

The secret is that Joe knew about the cracked cylinder heads and knew that they

wouldn’t hold up the planes if they were installed in the engines, and yet he told

Steve to ship them out to the Air Force just the same. Keller told Chris that he

didn’t believe that the faulty heads would be installed and so he didn’t inform the

Air Force that the cylinder heads were faulty.

**1A. Joe says: “A little man makes a mistake and they hang him by the thumbs; the**

**big ones become ambassadors.” What does Keller mean by this?**

He means that Steve was the little man who made a mistake and got caught and

was found guilty. He had to pay for his mistake by going to prison because he was

only a little man who made a mistake and had to pay for it. Keller was the boss in

his own business. He was an “ambassador” because he was clever enough to get

himself exonerated from the accusation that he committed a terrible crime.

**The HOTS used to answer this question is: Inferring from what is written to**

**understand what is not written.**

**2A. Why is Keller so eager to give Ann’s father work?**

Keller wants to help Steve when he gets out of prison by giving him work. He does

this because he is afraid that Steve, when he gets released from jail, may try to

prove his own innocence by telling exactly what happened during the war on the

shop floor of Keller’s factory. Keller believes that if he helps Steve by giving him a

job he will win him over and Steve will not try to do anything against Joe.

The HOTS used for this question is: Explaining patterns. This is the way that Keller

operates. It is a pattern of behaviour that Joe uses to manipulate people for his

own ends. He did it before in the play when he offered Chris a partnership in the

business, to build him a house with a driveway from the road (P. 48).

Another HOT that could explain this is Cause and Effect. Trying to understand

what effect Keller’s behaviour would have on Steve.

**3. What questions are left unanswered for the reader/audience at the end of Act**

What Chris will do next after finding out the truth about his father’s actions

during the war. Will he give him up to the police, or will he do nothing? How will

Chris be able to live with his conscience now that he knows the truth?