**This is a sample text analysis response, a five-paragraph essay.**

**Use it as a guideline to fully flesh out your chosen theme.**

**Elements of a well-written text analysis response:**

* **TAG IT: (title, author, genre, AND short summary connected to YOUR character and theme)**
* **Identify theme and literary device, in this case dialogue, and *how* it is used to develop theme:**
* **Follow rules of good mechanics, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling**
* **Use three pieces of evidence (one from each act of the play) PLUS their explanations to show how author uses dialogue to develop chosen theme**
* **Follow MLA 8 heading guidelines: proper heading, 12-point font, Times New Roman, double space**

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Arthur Miller’s riveting play *All My Sons* tells the thought-provoking story of Joe Keller, a successful self-made man dedicated to his family, or so it would seem. Joe has built up his factory thanks to the manufacturing of plane parts for the military during WWII. At the start of the play, the audience is drawn in by Joe and his devotion to his wife Kate and son Chris. We see him as a moral and dedicated husband and father. Keller and Kate have suffered the loss of their younger son Larry, who is reported M.I.A. shortly before WWII concludes, and this tragedy sets the wheels in motion for the audience’s dark revelation at the play’s conclusion. One theme Miller brings to light in his drama is that of family and familial obligation and the author’s brilliant use of dialogue helps unfold this important message.

One instance in which Miller implements dialogue in the development of the theme is found in Act I on pg. 7 when Joe says, "From Mother's point of view he [Larry] is not dead and you have no right to take his girl." As a father figure, Joe not only feels an obligation to his wife Kate, but also a family allegiance to protect his son Larry. Chris' marriage to Ann threatens Joe's ideal notion of family, so he feels obligated to protect that ideal, even if it means going along with Kate's inability to accept that Larry is dead. Because of Miller’s expert use of dialogue, the audience is truly sympathetic to Joe’s dilemma, as he is caught between honoring his wife’s inability to accept Larry’s death and his son Chris’ longing to accept his brother’s death and move forward with his life by marrying Larry’s girl.

In Act II pg. 25 Miller again uses dialogue to advance the theme when Joe attempts to explain to Ann and Chris the responsibility family has to one another. Ann’s father and Keller’s business partner, Steve Deever, has been serving prison time, liable for shipping out defective plane parts from Joe’s factory, resulting in the death of twenty-one pilots. Ann refuses to show sympathy for her father not only because she believes her father’s actions are morally wrong, but also because she emphasizes the possible connection between the twenty-one pilots and Larry Keller. Joe then tries to convince Ann that family must be held above all things. Joe pleads, “And I don’t understand why she [Ann] has to crucify the man.” Here Keller begs Ann to again see Steve as her father, a man who made a mistake, true, but someone who needs his daughter’s forgiveness and love to raise him up. Joe also explains to Chris and Ann how he has worked his entire life to provide for his family, especially Chris, expecting that he will succeed him in the company when he states, "You get older, you want to feel that you…accomplished something. My only accomplishment is my son.” Joe’s conversation with Chris and Ann reinforces Miller’s theme of family and familial obligation by showing the reader Joe’s dedication to his family, and his willingness to even put aside his possible hard feelings for Steve Deever’s poor moral choice, which could have not only taken down Joe’s factory, but also ruined Keller’s reputation.

Finally, in Act III pg. 37 Arthur Miller skillfully employs the dialogue of his characters to culminate his theme of family and familial obligation as the reader not only discovers Joe’s involvement in the defective plane parts shipment that killed the twenty-one pilots, but also how he has allowed his partner, Steve Deever, to take the fall for it. In one of Chris’ final moments, he attacks his father’s family values demanding, “For me! Where do you live, where do you come from? For me? I was dying every day and you were killing my boys and you did it for me? What the hell do you think I was thinking of, the Goddam business?” Chris’ moral speech calls into question Joe’s fatal decision making in the name of his family. Miller’s dialogue here brings to light for the reader that one cannot lose sight of their obligation to all members of society in pursuit of providing their loved ones. As human beings living together we all morally and socially bound to one another.

Arthur Miller’s tragic play *All My Sons* is a reminder to all of us the social responsibility we all have, not just to our blood families but to our communities and our country. Miller explores this important theme through his skillful use of dialogue to show us Joe Keller’s betrayal to his family and his ultimate downfall. No one can fault Keller for loving his family and being driven to provide for and protect them. However, in his quest to be the model family man, he sadly lost sight of his moral obligation to the world. Once Chris forces his father to see this harsh reality, Joe realizes how he has not only been disloyal to his family, but also to society, and now sees no choice but to take his own life; he may not have been directly responsible for his son Larry’s death, but Joe’s failure to protect the lives of the twenty-one P-40 pilots is a direct reflection of who he is as a contributing member of society.