

Detail

Consider:

CHARLEY (to WILLY): Why must everybody like you? Who liked J. P. Morgan? Was he impressive? In a Turkish bath he'd look like a butcher. But with his pockets on he was very well liked. Now listen, Willy, I know you don't like me, and nobody can say I'm in love with you, but I'll give you a job because - just for the hell of it, put it that way. Now what do you say?

— Arthur Miller, *Death of a Salesman*

Discuss:

1. Who was J. P. Morgan? What is a Turkish bath? What picture comes to mind when someone is said to look like a butcher? How do these details contribute to the point Charley is trying to make?
2. How would the passage be different if Charley said J. P. Morgan would look like a *baker* in a Turkish bath?

Apply:

Think of someone famous and powerful. Use detail to create an unflattering but accurate description of the physical appearance of this famous person. Model your description on Miller's description of J. P. Morgan. Share your description with a partner.