

CCSS
ELA 9-12
Reading Writing
Speaking & Listening

THE CRUCIBLE

Interactive

Layered
Flip
Book

Background

The Crucible is a 1952 play by the American playwright Arthur Miller. It is a dramatization of the Salem witch trials that took place in the Massachusetts Bay Colony during 1692 and 1693. Miller wrote the play to allegorize McCarthyism, when the US government blacklisted accused communists. Miller himself was questioned by Senator Joseph McCarthy's US House of Representatives' Committee on Un-American Activities in 1950 and was convicted of contempt of Congress for refusing to identify others present at the hearing. The play was Miller's first to be performed on Broadway on January 22, 1953. Miller's production was so successful and the play was so popular that we largely hostile. Nonetheless, the production was the 1953 "Best of the Year" award by the National Board of Theatre and universities because of its status as a revolutionary work of theatre and its relationship to the testimony given before the Committee on Un-American Activities during the 1950s. It is a central work in the canon of American drama.

The McCarthy Senate Hearings as they influenced the writing of *The Crucible*

Senator Joseph R. McCarthy, a US Senator from Wisconsin from 1946 until his death in 1957, burst in the public scene in February 1950 with his claim that Communists had infiltrated the Department of State. Even though his accusations were never proved, during the next three years, McCarthy and his House of Representatives Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) charged many government officials, members of the media (including actors, writers, newspapermen, etc.), and other prominent figures with engaging in subversive activities and having Communist sympathies. (Miller himself was brought before the committee and convicted of contempt of Congress for refusing to name names in 1957.) The "witch hunt" climaxed in April 1954, when McCarthy accused the Secretary of the Navy of sheltering Communist spies. The secretary mounted a vigorous and effective defense, which exposed McCarthy's ruthless tactics and questionable motives. As a result, McCarthy was censured by the Senate and his influence declined.

ARTHUR MILLER • HISTORY • BACKGROUND

CONFLICT • ALLEGORY • THEMES

THE STORY MAP

ACT FOUR

ACT THREE

ACT TWO

ACT ONE

CHARACTERS

Directions on how to assemble your flip book are included. -Just One Fold!

Background
 The *Crucible* is a 1952 play by the American playwright Arthur Miller. It is a dramatization of the Salem witch trials that took place in the Massachusetts Bay Colony during 1692 and 1693. Miller wrote the play as an allegory to McCarthyism, when the US government blacklisted accused communists. Miller himself was questioned by Senator Joseph McCarthy's US House of Representatives' Committee on Un-American Activities in 1956 and was convicted of "contempt of Congress" for refusing to identify others present at meetings he had attended. The play was first performed on Broadway on January 22, 1953. Miller felt that this production was too stylized and cold and the reviews for it were largely hostile. Nonetheless, the production won the 1953 "Best Play" Tony Award. Today it is studied in high schools and universities because of its status as a revolutionary work of theatre and for its allegorical relationship to testimony given before the Committee on Un-American Activities during the 1950s. It is a central work in the canon of American drama.

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Conflict: a conflict that occurs _____ a character, usually a _____ conflict
 Example of an internal conflict is when Proctor feels _____ about his affair with Abigail. He has with himself _____, which is why it is considered an internal conflict.

Conflict: a conflict that occurs _____ of a character, for example, a conflict between _____ characters in a story
 Example: the constant feud between Proctor and Reverend _____ is an example of an external conflict. _____ is a conflict between two characters in the story.

Allegory: when the author extends a _____ through an entire story so that objects, characters, and actions in the story represent meanings that lie _____ the story
 Example: "The Crucible" is an example of an allegory because it is an extended metaphor for the _____ period in America in the _____. The characters, events, and themes in the story represent the people, events, and ideas from the _____ period.

Theme: the central message of the story, answers the questions, "What does the story _____?" and "What _____ is the author trying to convey?" The theme must be discovered by the reader; it is not _____ stated in the text. The way you find the themes of the story is by starting with the _____ Only you have the "big ideas," you must figure out what message the author is trying to convey about the _____

- Examples:**
- A) An example of a big idea in "The Crucible" is _____. What is a theme in the play concerning the notion of power?
 - B) An example of a big idea in "The Crucible" is _____. What is a theme in the play concerning the notion of betrayal?
 - C) An example of a big idea in "The Crucible" is _____. What is a theme in the play concerning the notion of honesty?

CONFLICT • ALLEGORY • THEMES

Literary Term	Definition	How it Relates to "The Crucible" (examples from your text)
setting	Time, place, and where the story takes place.	
plot	is the sequence of actions and events in a literary work	
exposition	discourse or an example of it designed to convey information or explain what is difficult to understand	
rising action	The sequence of events that lead to the climax of the story.	
climax	is the moment when reader's interest and emotional intensity reach a peak	
falling action	is the part of a literary work that provides the background information necessary to understand character's their actions	
resolution	formal expression of opinion or intention made	

THE STORY MAP

BOTTOM PAGE

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John Proctor Salem farmer and former lover of Abigail's. He openly denounces Parris and does not attend church. Elizabeth Proctor Wife of John Proctor. She is a decent and honest woman, who dismissed Abigail because of her affair with John Proctor.

Mary Warren Servant to the Proctors. She goes along with Abigail and the girls by falsely accusing others of witchcraft; however, she later admits that she was lying.

Samuel Parris New Reverend of Salem Village, though not agreed upon. Created tension within Salem. Many of those accused in Salem were known to be anti-Parris.
 Betty Parris Parris' daughter. Her father discovers her dancing in the woods, and she later accuses individuals of practicing witchcraft.

Abigail Williams Parris' niece. She instigates the witch trials by falsely accusing others of witchcraft. She pretends to see spirits and instructs the other girls to pretend as well.

Tituba Parris' black slave. Parris discovers her casting spells and making potions with the girls in the woods.

Thomas Putnam A greedy landowner in Salem. He systematically accuses his neighbors of witchcraft so that he might purchase their lands after they hang.
 Ann Putnam Thomas Putnam's wife. She has given birth to eight children, but only Ruth Putnam survived. The other seven died before they were a day old, and Ann is convinced that they were murdered by supernatural means.
 Ruth Putnam The Putnams' lone surviving child out of eight. Like Betty Parris, Ruth falls into a strange stupor after Reverend Parris catches her and the other girls dancing in the woods at night.

Susanna Walcott Friend to Abigail. She also takes part in the trials by falsely accusing others of witchcraft.

Mercy Lewis Putnam's servant; also involved in accusation of witches; one of the girls who "cry out" during the trial.

Giles Corey Elderly inhabitant of Salem. He challenges the court in an attempt to defend his wife who has been convicted of witchcraft. He is executed by death as a result.
 Martha Corey Giles Corey's third wife. Her reading habits led to her arrest and conviction for witchcraft.

Francis Nurse A wealthy, influential man in Salem. He is well respected by most people in Salem, but is an enemy of Thomas Putnam and his wife.
 Rebecca Nurse Francis Nurse's wife. Rebecca is a wise, sensible, and upright woman, held in tremendous regard by most of the Salem community.

Sarah Good Accused witch who cracks under the strain of imprisonment

Sarah Osborne Middlewife at birth of three Putnam babies who were born dead; accused witch.

Reverend John Hale Minister who is an expert in witchcraft who is called to Salem; later regrets his decisions at the end of the play.

Governor Danforth Highest ranking representative of civil authority

Judge Hathorne Sent to examine some of the people accused

Act One

1. Where and when is the play set?
2. Describe Reverend Parris.
3. Why did the actions and deeds of his daughter and niece distress him?
4. Describe the Putnams. Why does Mr. Putnam turn to witchcraft?
5. How does Miller describe Proctor?
6. What does the scene between Proctor and Abigail reveal?
7. What is Proctor's attitude towards witchcraft?
8. Why does Proctor avoid going to church?
9. Why does Proctor dislike and probably fear Proctor?
10. Describe Giles Corey.
11. How does Arthur Miller describe Reverend John Hale?
12. Why is Hale present in Salem?
13. What did Betty do to make Parris believe she is witched?
14. What story does Giles Corey tell about his wife?
15. What else did the girls do in the forest other than dance?
16. What charges does Abigail level at Tituba?
17. What does Tituba confess?
18. What did the Devil bid Tituba to do?
19. What are the girls doing, as the scene concludes?

Act Four

1. How have the townspeople been affected by the executions?
2. What is Parris' real reason for pleading for postmortem?
3. What makes Danforth anxious to obtain confessions?
4. Why has Hale returned to Salem?
5. Why doesn't Elizabeth beg John to sign the confession?
6. How has Elizabeth changed during her imprisonment?
7. How did Giles die? Why did he refuse to answer?
8. What makes John Proctor finally tear up the confession?
9. What happened to the following characters after the trial?
 - a. Elizabeth Proctor
 - b. Reverend Parris
 - c. Abigail

Act Two

1. How is Proctor's home described?
2. What kind of mood or feeling exists between John and Elizabeth?
3. What developments have taken place at Salem?
4. How has Mary Warren changed?
5. Why does Elizabeth want John to go to Salem?
6. Why is John reluctant to go?
7. What does Mary give to Elizabeth?
8. On what grounds was Goody Osborn convicted?
9. Why is Mary Warren an official of the court?
10. Why does Elizabeth feel she has been accused?
11. Why does Hale come to see Proctor at home?
12. Why do the Hale make John recite the commandments?
13. Which one does John forget?
14. What does John tell Hale about the witch-hunt?
15. What parting advice does Hale give?
16. Who charged Elizabeth? What was she charged with?
17. To what does Mary Warren testify?
18. How does Elizabeth react to the charge? How does John react?
19. What does John call Hale at the end of the act?
20. How does the act close?

Act Three

1. Of what does John accuse Parris?
2. How does Parris react to John's accusation?
3. How does Reverend Hale change as the proceedings progress?
4. Why will Elizabeth's life be spared for at least a year?
5. What does Proctor reveal in an effort to discredit Abigail?
6. What two ironic twists does the plot take in this act?
7. Reread and explain Proctor's last speech in this act.

ACT FOUR

ACT TWO

ACT THREE

CHARACTERS