

Vocabulary From Literature for...

The Crucible

by Arthur Miller

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ISBN 978-1-58049-791-6

Reorder No. 302540

Vocabulary From Literature

Activity I
Matching Definitions
Act I

Directions: Match each of the words below with its definition based on the content in which the word appears in the book. Use the page numbers in parentheses to locate the word. Then, look up the word in the dictionary, and change any answers that are not correct.

fanatics (4)	creed (4)	magistrates (5)	parochial (5)
heathen (5)	autocracy (6)	junta (6)	paradox (7)
theocracy (7)	dissembling (9)	trafficked (10)	conjured (10)
faction (10)	providence (13)	parish (14)	

- _____ government in which one person has unlimited control
- _____ people motivated by extreme, irrational enthusiasm
- _____ very limited or provincial in scope and outlook
- _____ an administrative or ruling council
- _____ a pagan, uncultured, or uncivilized person or people
- _____ local officers having power to administer and enforce law
- _____ any system or doctrine of belief
- _____ invoked a spirit or devil through an incantation
- _____ lying or concealing with false appearance
- _____ traded with another, usually in an illegal enterprise
- _____ something that exhibits a contradictory nature
- _____ a manifestation of divine care and guidance
- _____ form of government in which God and His laws, as interpreted by ecclesiastical rulers, hold supreme law of the land
- _____ an ecclesiastical district composed of its own church, clergy, and congregation
- _____ a smaller dissenting group within a larger organization

Vocabulary From Literature

Activity I
Matching Definitions
Act II

Directions: Match each of the words below with its definition based on the content in which the word appears in the book. Use the page numbers in parentheses to locate the word. Then, look up the word in the dictionary, and change any answers that are not correct.

reprimanding (51)	friction (51)	condemnation (52)	scoffing (52)
falter (54)	ameliorate (56)	entranced (57)	conviction (60)
dote (61)	evasive (67)	conceding (62)	base (62)
deference (62)	pious (64)	ordained (66)	flailing (67)

- _____ dissension or conflict between persons
- _____ to be derisive or scornful
- _____ spellbound or fascinated
- _____ to improve something or make it better
- _____ rebuking or censuring someone for wrongdoing
- _____ hesitate or waver
- _____ pronouncement of someone's guilt and punishment
- _____ lacking in morals or values
- _____ thrashing violently about
- _____ avoidance, of an issue or trouble; being vague and elusive
- _____ to be officially appointed in a religious office
- _____ respectful submission or yielding
- _____ reluctantly accepting something to be true
- _____ to express excessive fondness
- _____ devout
- _____ a firm belief

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Activity I
Matching Definitions
Act III

Directions: Match each of the words below with its definition based on the content in which the word appears in the book. Use the page numbers in parentheses to locate the word. Then, look up the word in the dictionary, and change any answers that are not correct.

vestry (83)	denounce (120)	scorn (84)	befouled (119)
remorseless (85)	gulling (117)	affidavit (86)	compacted (116)
beckons (87)	unperturbed (115)	deposition (88)	transfixed (114)
extravagance (89)	shovelboard (113)	undermine (90)	

- _____ disdain or ridicule
- _____ without pity or compassion
- _____ a room or building attached to a church
- _____ a sworn statement
- _____ tricking or duping a person or people
- _____ to openly or publicly condemn
- _____ to make something dirty or impure
- _____ signals to approach
- _____ lavishness
- _____ joined in a formal agreement
- _____ a witness's testimony
- _____ to weaken or demoralize
- _____ held motionless with awe or terror
- _____ calm and composed
- _____ a game

Vocabulary From Literature

Activity I
Matching Definitions
Act IV and “Echoes Down the Corridor”

Directions: Match each of the words below with its definition based on the content in which the word appears in the book. Use the page numbers in parentheses to locate the word. Then, look up the word in the dictionary, and change any answers that are not correct.

remedied (127)	climactic (132)	gaunt (125)	steeped (129)
bellowing (122)	empowered (130)	hearty (131)	province (130)
harlot (130)	gibbet (127)	adamant (130)	resume (127)
conciliatory (129)	belie (131)	clattered (128)	

- _____ in an apologetic manner or one meant to make peace
- _____ a territory or region
- _____ contradict or disprove
- _____ inflexible and unwavering
- _____ shouting loudly
- _____ gallows
- _____ an extremely exciting, decisive moment or turning point
- _____ permeated with a substance over a long period of time
- _____ vigorous and energetic
- _____ to continue or recommence
- _____ set right; corrected
- _____ to make a loud rattling noise
- _____ lean or emaciated
- _____ a prostitute
- _____ to supply with power

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Activity II
Synonyms
Act IV and “Echoes Down the Corridor”

Directions: Replace each highlighted word in the following passages from the text with an appropriate synonym. As a last resort, you may use a dictionary, but be careful that the word you select does not greatly alter the meaning of the passage. Note that some words are in *italicized* sections, which represent stage directions.

1. Postponement now speaks a **floundering** on my part; **reprieve** or pardon must cast doubt upon the guilt of them that died till now. While I speak God’s law, I will not crack its voice with whimpering. If **retaliation** is your fear, know this—I should hang ten thousand that dared to rise against the law, and an ocean of salt tears could not melt the **resolution** of the **statutes**. (Pg. 129)

Synonym for **floundering**:

Synonym for **reprieve**:

Synonym for **retaliation**:

Synonym for **resolution**:

Synonym for **statutes**: