

The Crucible - Arthur Miller

Guided Notes

The word "crucible" means:

- A glass container that can sustain _____.
- A severe _____ of patience or beliefs; a trial.

Puritanism

- Christian faith that originated in _____ during the early 1600s
- Puritans believed in _____; the idea that God had determined in advance one's destiny.
- Puritans split from the Church of England in _____.
- Many migrated to _____ colonies
- Their lives revolved around God, belief in _____, salvation, heaven and Hell.
- Puritans were not _____ of other religions.
- Aim of the early Puritans was to _____ the Church, not leave it. But their ideas were too strict, and they had to practice their beliefs in _____.

Church and State

- The Massachusetts government was run by a small select group of _____. This type of government is called an _____.
- Those men believed the Puritans were a _____ that the Devil would do anything to destroy.
- The Puritans considered all government actions to be for _____ and sanctioned by _____.
- As a result, any attempt to question or resist any of the government's actions, no matter how crazy, was considered to be an attempt to _____.

Basic Puritan Beliefs

- a. Mankind is basically _____
- b. God _____ those he wishes

- c. Jesus died for the _____, not everyone
- d. God's grace is freely given, it cannot be _____ or _____.
- e. People wanted to appear as if they were one of the _____ so outward behavior and appearance were important, creating opportunities for _____.

Education of Children

- a. All children were required to attend _____
- b. Puritan children had to learn to _____ and do _____
- c. Children and adults read the Bible or religious texts. No _____.
- d. Anything pleasant was inspired by the _____. Women couldn't dress prettily, children couldn't play games, theater was forbidden.
- e. _____ was a cardinal sin.

Witch Hunt

- Searching out for persecution of persons accused of witchcraft
- Searching out and deliberate harassment of those with _____

The Puritans were a strict society. Sins, both social and religious, were punished

- a. Stocks
- b. Handwritten _____
- c. Branding
- d. Worst sin was _____
- e. Women could only be dunked into water on a stool for _____
- f. Whipping/Lashing
- g. Public Shaming

Puritan concepts of the Devil and Witches

- a. During the 17th and 18th centuries, people believed in the actual existence of _____
- b. Puritans took the Bible literally—Exodus _____

c. The Devil wanted to destroy the New World to _____

Witches

a. a witch could be invisible and _____

b. the devil and his witches could assume the shape of an innocent person and _____

c. Ironically, once a person confessed to witchcraft, that person was _____

d. If a person claimed innocence, _____

Witchcraft in Salem

- Like all Puritans, the residents of _____ village believed in _____ and _____.
- They believed that witchcraft was “entering into an agreement with the devil in exchange for certain _____ to do evil.”
- They considered witchcraft both a _____ and a _____. It was a very serious accusation, which was carefully and thoroughly investigated.
- The witchcraft hysteria began in Salem, Massachusetts in early _____.
- Reverend Samuel Parris’s daughter and Abigail Williams started having fits of convulsion, _____, and hallucinations.
- A doctor examined the girls and concluded that the only explanation for the bizarre behaviors was _____.
- The girls pointed fingers at _____ (the Parris’ slave), Sarah _____, and Sarah _____. This sparked a witch hunt.
- During the next _____ months, more than _____ people were imprisoned for witchcraft.
- By the time court was dismissed, _____ people had been convicted, _____ hanged, and _____ pressed to death.

- The hysteria that snowballed in Salem reveals how deep the belief in the _____ ran in colonial America.

Causes of the Witchcraft Hysteria in Salem

- Strong belief that _____ is acting in the world
- A belief that Satan recruits _____ and _____ to work for him. (Prior witchcraft cases)
- A belief that a person afflicted by witchcraft exhibits certain _____
- A time of _____
- Stimulation of _____ by Tituba
- Teenage _____
- Confessing _____
- Old _____

McCarthyism

- McCarthyism is the term used to describe a period of intense _____ in the US during the early 1950s.
- It began when Senator Joseph McCarthy, from Wisconsin, claimed that _____ had infiltrated the Department of State.
- A special _____ Committee on Un-American Activities was formed to investigate allegations of communism.
- During this period, people from all walks of life became the _____ of aggressive “witch hunts” often based on false or inconclusive evidence.
- Persons accused of being communists were often denied _____ in both the public and private sector.
- In the film industry alone, over _____ actors, writers, and directors were denied work in the US.
- American writer, Arthur Miller, was one of those that was _____.
- McCarthy’s influence finally faltered 1954 when a famous CBS _____, Edward R Murrow, aired an investigative news report that revealed McCarthy as dishonest and abusive.
- The public was made aware of McCarthy’s false _____.

Arthur Miller

- Born in _____, died in _____
- Wrote _____.
- He believed that the _____ surrounding the witch craft trials were very similar to the way McCarthy was accusing people of being a communist.
- After publishing The Crucible, Miller was _____ for possible connections with the _____ party.
- He refused to give up any information about his colleagues and found guilty of contempt of court. His sentence was later overturned.

Characters:

Abigail Williams

- _____ of Reverend Parris.
- Once the _____ of John Proctor.
- _____ of Elizabeth Proctor, John's wife.
- _____ of the girls.

John Proctor

- _____ to Elizabeth.
- He is a _____.
- Had an affair with Abigail.
- He knows the girls are _____ to see witches but cannot tell the truth.
- He refuses to admit to witchcraft.

Elizabeth Proctor

- Wife of _____
- Abigail's _____.
- She feels responsible for driving her husband to have an affair.

Tituba

- Slave of the _____ household.

- Native of _____.
- Ruth Putnam and Abigail ask her to cast _____ and create _____.
- When Abigail turns on her to save herself from punishment, Tituba confesses to everything and saves herself.

Reverend Parris

- _____ of the Church in Salem.
- _____ of Betty and Uncle of Abigail.
- He believes he is being persecuted and that the townspeople don't respect him.

Deputy Governor Danforth

- He seems to feel that the girls are _____.
- He is sensitive to the presence of the _____.

The Girls

- _____ Parris
- _____ Walcott
- _____ Lewis
- _____ Warren