The Crucible Unit Packet

Unit Overview:

- Vocabulary study: Look up definitions for twenty words (due when packet is due). Small glossary of other words given.
- Background notes: Students are expected to take notes in the space given.
- Character study: For the main characters, tell as much as you can about each.
- Plot Diagram: Summarize each of the 5 stages of Plot.
- Study questions: Answer as we read; these are due when the entire packet is due.
- Dramatic reading: It is expected that each student participate in the reading of this play. There are 22 roles, but we will share large roles so everyone has a part.
- Comparison Chart: You will compare two interpretations of “The Crucible.”
- Test: Unit Test

Background notes

Drama: Briefly define the following dramatic terms and give one example from your prior knowledge (pp. 1116-1117).

1. Play
2. Plot
3. Acts
4. Scenes
5. Characters
6. Actors
7. Dialogue
8. Stage directions
9. Comedy
10. Tragedy
11. Tragic hero
12. Tragic flaw
13. History plays
14. Melodrama
15. Tragicomedy
16. Modern realistic drama
17. Political drama
18. Dramatic conventions
19. Suspension of disbelief
20. Soliloquy
21. Aside
22. Passage of time
Strategies for Reading Drama:

1. 

2. 

Write one interesting and two important facts about Arthur Miller (pp. 1118-1119).

1. 

2. 

3. 

Write one interesting and two important facts about “The Crucible” (pp. 1120-1121).

1. 

2. 

3. 

Use p. 1123 to define and explain the components of the following stages of plot. Use these explanations to help you complete the plot diagram.

1. Exposition
2. Rising Action
3. Climax
4. Falling Action
5. Resolution

Read the Background on pp. 1124-1125.

1. What was the result of the “witchcraft hysteria”? 

2. Why were many of the people accused? 

3. Why was the witchcraft episode “inevitable”? 

4. Who is Tituba, and what was her role in this episode? 

5. Why is the play called “The Crucible”? 

6. Is this play historically accurate? Explain.
McCarthy Hearings:

During the McCarthy hearings (1950's) many innocent people were accused of being traitors (communists, mainly) to our country and, while they were not physically harmed, their professional and personal lives were ruined by this adverse publicity, which was often untrue. During this period also (as in Salem) many supposed “good people” participated in the accusations against others because they were afraid that if they refused to do so their own lives would be ruined. Miller is thus drawing a parallel between two periods of hysteria in our country, though far apart in time, that are dangerously close in ideology. (Guidon study materials)

Based on the background of “The Crucible” and the background of the McCarthy hearings, how are the two similar? How are they different?

Vocabulary study: Glossary: these words are defined for you.

1. Theocracy: governed by religion
2. Providence: God’s will; God’s intervention in human affairs
3. Puritanical: strict in morality and religion; this term has come about since the reign of the Puritans
4. Inculcation: impress with insistent urging; convince
5. Propitiation: win good will
6. Ameliorate: improve
7. Theology: the study of a religious doctrine; what a particular sect believes
8. Vestry: the room in the church where robes are kept
9. Apparition: ghost
10. Trafficked: have dealings with
11. Blink: tolerate

Vocabulary study: You need to define the following twenty words.

1. Dissembling
2. Conjure
3. Vindictive
4. Propriety
5. Diametrically
6. Defamation
7. Malign
8. Fiend
9. Iniquity
10. Malevolence
11. Contempt
12. Prosecutor
13. Deposition
14. Plaintiff
15. Guile
16. Reprieve
17. Indictment
18. Conspiracy
19. Purged
20. Penitence

Character Study: For each of the following characters, write who she/he is, what relationship to other characters, any important character or personality traits and any other important information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Who is he/she?</th>
<th>Relationship to whom?</th>
<th>Problem? Acts of courage/cowardice?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reverend Samuel Parris</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name</td>
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<tr>
<td>Betty Parris</td>
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<td>Abigail Williams</td>
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<td>Tituba</td>
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<td>Mrs. Ann Putnam</td>
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<td>Thomas Putnam</td>
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<td>John Proctor</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Proctor</td>
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<td>Rebecca Nurse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reverend John Hale</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Think of what you mean when you use the words “honor,” “truth,” “justice,” or “courage.” Choose one character that exemplifies your idea of one of these ideals and explain how he/she lives up to your standards (or do the reverse: fails to live up to your standards).

Study Questions: Answer each fully (sometimes in sentences, sometimes the answer is just a word or two). Keep these questions out and fill in your answers as we read and not when we finish.

Act I

1. What was Samuel Parris’s attitude towards children?

2. Why do you think Rev. Parris has many enemies?

3. After Parris begins to believe his daughter to be afflicted by witchcraft, what is Thomas Putnam’s advice to him?

4. What truths come out when the adults leave the girls alone?

5. What’s going on between Abigail and John Proctor?

6. Why does Betty start screaming?

7. Why are some people, including John Proctor, inclined to stay away from Sabbath meeting?
8. Why does Hale believe the Devil would strike Rev. Parris’s house?

9. Through Rev. hale is trying to get Tituba to name her accomplices, who is the first person to actually mention names?

10. Why isn’t it difficult for Ann Putnam to believe that Goody Osburn is a witch?

Act II

11. What do you know about the relationship between John and Elizabeth Proctor from the opening dialogue of Act II?

12. Describe the power Abigail has in the court room.

13. What’s going on between the Proctors?

14. Through Mary Warren cannot say who accused Elizabeth Proctor, who do you believe accused her and why?

15. Ironically, which commandment can john not remember?

16. John Proctor seems to be the only voice of reason in the confusing end of Act II. What are some examples to support this idea?

17. Why is Mary Warren afraid of telling the truth about Abigail, for herself and for John?

Act III

18. Over and over, Danforth says that the good have nothing to fear. What evidence can you give to show that the opposite is true?

19. Danforth gives the premise for judging a witch. Summarize his guidelines.

20. Mary Warren’s testimony is destroyed in the end because she cannot do something. What? How does she explain the problem?
21. Finally, Proctor admits that he and Abigail have been lovers. This truth could be the end of Abigail’s control. Why isn’t it?

22. What is the importance of John Proctor’s last speech in Act III?

Act IV

23. What is Hale’s mission in Act IV?

24. Parris tells Danforth, “You cannot hang this sort.” What does he mean?

25. Why won’t Danforth pardon the prisoners?

26. Do you think Elizabeth Proctor would confess if she were in her husband’s place? Explain.

27. In the end, what is it that is of utmost importance to John Proctor?