

## Introduction to *The Crucible*

By Arthur Miller

- A \_\_\_\_\_ is a vessel in which metals are heated to extremely high temperatures, melted down and purified.
- The play, 'The Crucible', shows a \_\_\_\_\_ which ignites and burns with \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, mass hysteria and \_\_\_\_\_.
- Set in the small town of \_\_\_\_\_ Massachusetts in 1692, it explores the struggle of one man with his \_\_\_\_\_, and his eventual \_\_\_\_\_.
- It is a work of fiction, but based heavily on the historical records of an awful chapter in \_\_\_\_\_ history.

### Introduction to Salem

- The town of Salem was a small \_\_\_\_\_ on the east coast of what is now Massachusetts in the United States of America.
- It was one of the earliest towns in New England, but at the time the play is set, it had been in \_\_\_\_\_ for less than \_\_\_\_\_ years.
- The people of Salem were settlers in a \_\_\_\_\_ environment - a land in which they struggled to \_\_\_\_\_ farms and live off the land; a land which was \_\_\_\_\_ by vast unexplored areas.
- As \_\_\_\_\_ reminds us when talking of the death of her parents, there was also a threat from marauding \_\_\_\_\_ tribes. Life was hard.
- The religious rigor of \_\_\_\_\_, under which they lived, made their lives even more harsh and \_\_\_\_\_.

### Puritanism

- A group of \_\_\_\_\_, known as the Pilgrim Fathers, sailed on The \_\_\_\_\_ to New England in \_\_\_\_\_.
- Their strict \_\_\_\_\_ ways had become \_\_\_\_\_ in England, and they sailed to North America to escape religious \_\_\_\_\_.
- Other Puritans and colonists followed.
- Puritans lived by a \_\_\_\_\_ code. They kept to simple, plain dress. Men \_\_\_\_\_ the household, and took all the major decisions.
- Attendance at \_\_\_\_\_ was essential and strict records were kept of who attended and who did not. Note how Hale \_\_\_\_\_ questions the Proctors on their \_\_\_\_\_ at church.

## Puritanism continued

- Unnecessary work and household chores on \_\_\_\_\_ were frowned upon.
- Children were expected to act under the same strict code as adults; they knew their place and were expected to be \_\_\_\_\_.
- Puritan children did not have much in the way of \_\_\_\_\_ : toys were scarce, they didn't allow dancing, theatre, reading for pleasure and they did not even celebrate \_\_\_\_\_.
- They had a \_\_\_\_\_ duty to the Church and were ruled by the words of the \_\_\_\_\_. If the Bible, therefore, acknowledged the \_\_\_\_\_ of witches then Puritans would believe in their \_\_\_\_\_.
- As \_\_\_\_\_ states: 'The Bible speaks of witches and I will not deny them'.
- As you read/watch the play, consider the effects of \_\_\_\_\_ on such characters as Parris, Abigail, Proctor and Elizabeth

## Witchcraft

- To the people of \_\_\_\_\_ century Salem, \_\_\_\_\_ was a very real and \_\_\_\_\_ threat.
- Across \_\_\_\_\_ in the fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth centuries many people - perhaps those seen as odd or \_\_\_\_\_ - were accused of being witches, and were \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ of witches spread to \_\_\_\_\_ under the rule of James I and with the Puritans, it also spread to the new settlements on the east coast of \_\_\_\_\_.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ said that witches made a \_\_\_\_\_ with the \_\_\_\_\_ and that the witches kept a book with \_\_\_\_\_ of those contracted to the Devil.
- The Devil would then work through them and their ' \_\_\_\_\_ ' (evil spirits in the form of an animal - a cat or a toad, for example.)

## Cast of Characters: