

## Learning Targets

- Analyze a dramatic text to determine appropriate tone and inflection to convey meaning.
- Collaborate to analyze texts and generate predictions, using textual evidence for support.

### LEARNING STRATEGIES:

Discussion Groups, Drama Game, Note-taking, Predicting

## The Crucible

Arthur Miller is a leader among the ranks of writers who use their art to comment on social issues. Miller created *The Crucible* to speak his conscience; he uncovered a setting, developed compelling characters through masterful characterization, created dialogue rich with metaphor and purpose, and structured a plot that transformed ideas into a drama of such persuasive appeal that it continues to speak to audiences all over the world. The most complete way to appreciate a drama of this caliber is to read it, perform it, view it, and finally, to emulate it.

## Before Reading

1. The play you are about to read, *The Crucible*, is set in Salem, Massachusetts, the heart of Puritan New England. Begin by thinking about the title and the meaning of the word *crucible*. Next, brainstorm with a partner the types of characters a writer would need to create for this particular setting. Use details from the texts in the previous activity to support your thinking.

## During Reading

2. To prepare for the drama game that follows, practice delivering one of the following lines assigned by your teacher. Show you understand what is being said through your tone, inflection, and volume. Determine word definitions through context, word knowledge, or other resources. While you meet other characters, make inferences and predictions based on their dialogue.

### Character: Reverend Parris

**Line 1:** You will confess yourself or I will take you out and whip you to your death, Tituba!

**Line 2:** How can it be the Devil? Why would he choose my house to strike? We have all manner of licentious people in the village! (to Hale)

**Line 3:** Rebecca, Rebecca, go to her, we're lost. She suddenly cannot bear to hear the Lord's—

### Character: Tituba

**Line 1:** And I say, "You lie, Devil, you lie!" And then he come one stormy night to me, and he say, "Look! I have white people belong to me. And I look—and there was Goody Good."

**Line 2:** Mister Reverend, I do believe somebody else be witchin' these children.

**Line 3:** No, no, don't hang Tituba! I tell him I don't desire to work for him, sir. (to Hale)

### My Notes

# Salem Society: Meet the Characters

## My Notes

### Character: Reverend Hale

**Line 1:** Now let me instruct you. We cannot look to superstition in this. The Devil is precise; the marks of his presence are definite as stone. (to Putnam and Parris)

**Line 2:** We shall need hard study if it comes to tracking down the Old Boy, Parris.

**Line 3:** Tituba, you must have no fear to tell us who they are, do you understand? We will protect you. The Devil can never overcome a minister. You know that, do you not?

### Character: Giles Corey

**Line 1:** Mr. Hale, I have always wanted to ask a learned man—what signifies the readin' of strange books?

**Line 2:** A fart on Thomas Putnam, that is what I say to that!

**Line 3:** I will not give you no name. I mentioned my wife's name once and I'll burn in hell long enough for that. I stand mute.

### Character: Rebecca Nurse

**Line 1:** Goody Ann! You sent a child to conjure up the dead?

**Line 2:** This will set us all to arguin' again in the society, and we thought to have peace this year.

**Line 3:** I fear it, I fear it. Let us rather blame ourselves and—

### Character: John Proctor

**Line 1:** Can you speak one minute without we land in Hell again? I am sick of Hell.

**Line 2:** I come to see what mischief your uncle's brewin' now. Put it out of mind, Abby.

**Line 3:** Ah, you're wicked yet, aren't y'!

### Character: Abigail Williams

**Line 1:** Can I have a soft word, John?

**Line 2:** My name is good in the village! I will not have it said my name is soiled! Goody Proctor is a gossiping liar!

**Line 3:** I danced for the Devil; I saw him; I wrote in his book.

### Character: John Putnam

**Line 1:** . . . Mr. Hale. We look to you to come to our house and save our child.

**Line 2:** Why, we are surely gone wild this year. What anarchy is this? That tract is in my bounds, it's in my bounds, Mr. Proctor.

**Line 3:** That is a notorious sign of witchcraft afoot, Goody Nurse, a prodigious sign!



