

Learning Targets

- Analyze a writer’s use of diction and figurative language.
- Explain how a conflict develops theme in a dramatic text.

Before Reading

1. The following words are among many that Miller chose to use in his quest to create a language that was an “echo” of the language spoken by the Puritans. What impact does this language have on creating a scene?

During Reading

2. With a partner or small group, write the definitions of any words you might already know in your Reader/Writer Notebook. Then, as you read Act Two, note where the words occur and how they are used. Use context to help you determine the meanings, and consult a dictionary or other resource for confirmation.

<i>Act Two Vocabulary</i>	
<i>magistrate</i>	<i>quail (used as a verb)</i>
<i>fraud</i>	<i>lechery</i>
<i>charity</i>	<i>abomination</i>
<i>naught</i>	<i>blasphemy</i>
<i>poppet</i>	<i>vengeance</i>
<i>theology</i>	<i>conjure</i>

3. Another way that Arthur Miller conveys the Puritan setting and mood and central thematic ideas of *The Crucible* is through the use of metaphoric language. Read the following lines, and work with your group to determine the meaning behind the metaphors.

LEARNING STRATEGIES:
Diffusing, Graphic Organizer,
Drafting

My Notes

Speaking Like a Puritan

My Notes

Metaphor	The meaning of the words and phrases and what it reveals about the character
<p>Proctor: “a funeral marches round your heart”</p>	
<p>Elizabeth: “the magistrate sits in your heart”</p>	
<p>Proctor: “I will curse her hotter than the oldest cinder”</p>	
<p>Hale: “Theology is a fortress”</p>	
<p>Francis Nurse: “My wife is the very brick and mortar of the church.”</p>	
<p>Proctor: “Vengeance is walking Salem”</p>	

After Reading

4. After looking at the metaphoric language Miller’s characters speak, try your hand at creating a metaphor or simile to describe Mary Warren, Hale, or Abigail.

Check Your Understanding

Try to emulate the language Miller has created by bringing together two characters from this play in an original scene of your imagining. Be sure to:

- Include appropriate language that echoes Puritan speech.
- Write stage directions that set the context and guide the actions and vocal delivery of the speakers.
- Provide a clear sense of a central conflict.