The Crucible A haunting examination of groupthink and mass hysteria in a rural community A Penguin Classic "I believe that the reader will discover here the essential nature of one of the strangest and most awful chapters in human history," Arthur Miller wrote in an introduction to The Crucible, his classic play about the witch-hunts and trials in seventeenth-century Salem, Massachusetts. Based on historical people and real events, Miller's drama is a searing portrait of a community engulfed by hysteria. In the rigid theocracy of Salem, rumors that women are practicing witchcraft galvanize the town's most basic fears and suspicions; and when a young girl accuses Elizabeth Proctor of being a witch, self-righteous church leaders and townspeople insist that Elizabeth be brought to trial. The ruthlessness of the prosecutors and the eagerness of neighbor to testify against neighbor brilliantly illuminate the destructive power of socially sanctioned violence. Written in 1953, The Crucible is a mirror Miller uses to
reflect the anti-communist hysteria inspired by Senator Joseph McCarthy's "witch-hunts" in the United States. Within the text itself, Miller contemplates the parallels, writing: "Political opposition is given an inhumane overlay, which then justifies the abrogation of all normally applied customs of civilized behavior. A political policy is equated with moral right, and opposition to it with diabolical malevolence." For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

Ernest Hemingway's The Old Man and the Sea

The Crucible in History and Other Essays

A Study Guide for Arthur Miller's The Crucible Seminar paper from the year 2016 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 1.7, University of Bonn (Institut für Anglistik, Amerikanistik und Keltologie), course: American Drama, language: English, abstract: The Salem witch hunt and the McCarthy era – they are definitely two of the rather unpleasant chapters of American history to think of. Even though there are more than 250 years of distance between these two periods, there are still several parallels to be perceived. One might say: History repeats itself! One of the attempts to combine the events of 1692 and the 1950s, and point out their similarities, was made by America’s famous playwright Arthur Miller. "The Crucible" was written in 1953 and is set in 1692 Salem. The play would become by far Arthur Miller's most frequently performed play. In the context of McCarthyism, the audiences soon interpreted the play as a veiled attack on the current chase after Communists in the country. However, Arthur Miller time and again denied such an intention, but it appears conceivable that the play was shaped, in a way, by Miller’s experiences during McCarthyism. The work in hands is supposed to find out, whether "The Crucible" can be referred to as a play with a dual historical context. In the first chapter of the work, the apparent historical background, the
Salem witch trials of 1692, will be outlined briefly. Following this, the play’s formation context, America’s 1950s and McCarthyism, will be thematized. As Arthur Miller experienced the consequences of the 20th century witch hunt himself, chapter four deals with his experiences with McCarthyism and how it might have affected him writing the play. The next chapter, then, analyzes "The Crucible" in more detail and points out passages that can be related to the events of the 1950s and potentially contain hidden criticism. Finally, in chapter six there will be an attempt to give an answer to the question, whether "The Crucible" can be considered a play with a dual historical context or not. As many of the documents of the Salem witch trials still exist, the course of events can easily be reconstructed. With regard to the events of the 1950s, documents are mainly retained by the FBI, but, however, a few surveys of accused people could be reconstructed either by reports of the accused or by tapes and documents that were somehow not kept under wraps by the FBI. As Arthur Miller is one of America’s most famous playwrights, his plays evoked the interest of many scholars over the last decades.

The Crucible [by] Arthur Miller The great play The Crucible exposed the paranoia and suspicion that permeated American society during the Cold War. This collection of essays by Miller reveals the author's thinking, personal peril and despair at that crucial time.

The Crucible


Arthur Miller - Death of a Salesman/The Crucible A comprehensive study guide offering in-depth explanation, essay, and test prep for selected works by Arthur Miller, two-time Tony Winner and 1949 Pulitzer Prize Winner for Drama. Titles in this study guide include All My Sons, Death of a Salesman, The Crucible, A Memory Of Two Mondays, A View From The Bridge, After The Fall, and Incident at Vichy. As an influential, yet controversial, figure of American theatre, Miller expertly combined social awareness with a
searching concern for his characters' inner ambitions. Moreover, Miller offered his audiences great entertainment mixed with thought-provoking social criticism. This Bright Notes Study Guide explores the context and history of Miller's classic work, helping students to thoroughly explore the reasons they have stood the literary test of time. Each Bright Notes Study Guide contains: - Introductions to the Author and the Work - Character Summaries - Plot Guides - Section and Chapter Overviews - Test Essay and Study Q&As

The Bright Notes Study Guide series offers an in-depth tour of more than 275 classic works of literature, exploring characters, critical commentary, historical background, plots, and themes. This set of study guides encourages readers to dig deeper in their understanding by including essay questions and answers as well as topics for further research.

Arthur Miller's The Crucible Part of the Penguin Orange Collection, a limited-run series of twelve influential and beloved American classics in a bold series design offering a modern take on the iconic Penguin paperback Winner of the 2016 AIGA + Design Observer 50 Books | 50 Covers competition For the seventieth anniversary of Penguin Classics, the Penguin Orange Collection celebrates the heritage of Penguin's iconic book design with twelve influential American literary classics representing the breadth and diversity of the Penguin Classics library. These collectible editions are dressed in the iconic orange and white tri-band cover design, first created in 1935, while french flaps, high-quality paper, and striking cover illustrations provide the cutting-edge design treatment that is the signature of Penguin Classics Deluxe Editions today. The Crucible One of the true masterpieces of twentieth-century American theater, The Crucible brilliantly explores the threshold between individual guilt and mass hysteria, personal spite and collective evil. It is a play that is not only relentlessly suspenseful and vastly moving, but that compels readers to fathom their hearts and consciences in ways that only the greatest theatre can.

The Crucible by Arthur Miller (Book Analysis) Brand new edition of Miller's classic tragedy that brings it alive for 14-16 students. With the clearest and most accessible design, together with supporting activities, biography and contextual information targeting exactly the right level,
this edition provides comprehensive, relevant and engaging support for students.

Study Guide to The Crucible and Other Works by Arthur Miller
Provides a framework for understanding censorship and the protections guaranteed to us through the first amendment. Interpretations of the uniquely American notion of freedom of expression -- and our freedom to read what we choose -- are supplemented by straightforward, easily accessible information that will inspire further exploration.

Oxford Playscripts: the Crucible

Banned Books


The Crucible Quicklets: Learn More. Read Less. Arthur Miller was one of the twentieth century's most important playwrights. Strongly influenced by the bold naturalism of Henrik Ibsen, he changed the landscape of American theatrical drama with his social realist masterpiece Death of a Salesman in 1949. Miller was awarded a Tony and a Pulitzer Prize for the play. In 1953, Miller debuted The Crucible, a politically charged work with obvious parallels to the House Un-American Activities Committee, lead by Joseph McCarthy. Miller's play about a literal witch hunt commented on McCarthy's search for Communists in the United States. In 1996, Miller wrote a screenplay adaptation of The Crucible. The film starred Winona Ryder and Daniel-Day Lewis. Miller received an Academy Award nomination for the screenplay. The Crucible was first performed on Broadway at the Martin Beck Theater on January 22, 1953. Miller felt the staging was cold and over stylized, a sentiment echoed by many reviewers. However, The New York Times lauded the play as a powerful work. In 1953, The Crucible was awarded a Tony for Best Play. It is now considered a classic of modern American theater.

Understanding the Crucible Unlock the more straightforward side of The Crucible with this concise and insightful summary and analysis! This engaging summary presents an analysis of The Crucible by Arthur Miller, a vivid allegory...
the mass hysteria that swept through the town of Salem during the Salem Witch Trials. In spite of its historical subject matter, the play was chillingly topical at the time it was written: the 1950s were marked by McCarthyism, where accusations of Communism were rife and many Americans (including Miller himself) were hauled before the House Un-American Activities Committee to answer for their behaviour. Arthur Miller is considered one of the most influential dramatists of the 20th century, and The Crucible was one of his best-known plays. It remains popular today, and new productions of the play are frequently performed. Find out everything you need to know about The Crucible in a fraction of the time! This in-depth and informative reading guide brings you: • A complete plot summary • Character studies • Key themes and symbols • Questions for further reflection

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Twentieth Century Interpretations of The Crucible From the #1 New York Times bestselling author of The Immortals, Alyson Noël, comes Fated—a breathtaking new saga brimming with magic, mystery, and an intoxicating love story that will steal your heart away. Meet The Soul Seekers. Strange things are happening to Daire Santos. Crows mock her, glowing people stalk her, time stops without warning, and a beautiful boy with unearthly blue eyes haunts all her dreams. Fearing for her daughter's sanity, Daire's mother sends her to live with the grandmother she's never met. A woman who recognizes the visions for what they truly are—the call to her destiny as a Soul Seeker—one who can navigate the worlds between the living and dead. There on the dusty plains of Enchantment, New Mexico, Daire sets out to harness her mystical powers. But it's when she meets Dace, the boy from her dreams, that her whole world is shaken to its core. Now Daire is forced to discover if Dace is the one guy she's destined to destroy.

The Crucible
Summary and Analysis of the Crucible by Arthur Miller
An overview of the play features a biographical sketch of the author, a list of characters, a summary of the plot, and critical and analytical essays about the work.

The Crucible

Arthur Miller's The Crucible Studienarbeit aus dem Jahr 2013 im Fachbereich Englisch - Literatur, Werke, Universität Siegen, Sprache: Deutsch, Abstract: In The Crucible (1953), a four-act play, Miller's scene is Salem, Massachusetts in the year 1692 and the action is based on the witchcraft trials of that time. In "A Note on the Historical Accuracy of This Play," Miller says: "This play is not history in the sense [] used by the academic historian," for "dramatic purposes" prompted certain changes in the record. Nevertheless, Miller believes the "reader will discover here the essential nature" of the Salem trials (Miller, in: Murray: 1967, p. 52). This quote describes the truth in an appropriate short way. The following analysis of the main characters has not the aim to offer the reader an adequate historical overview, nor to work as an outline to present the details of the people who lived in Salem in 1692. The aim is in fact to characterize and interpret the protagonists, as Miller did in his day, and through this, to expose the development of their sense of morality and their pursuit of freedom, especially of John Proctor. To reach that aim the focus will be on John Proctor's internal state of mind concerning his contradictory behavior. This means his strengthening of his will and his conviction of what is wrong and right. The reader will find a development of his comprehension of his 'self' among emotional alterations, which matters a lot in Miller's dramas, as much as social behavior and religious crises. Those crises start a chain of events, which do most notably peak in Proctor's quest for identity and the dramatic finding of it. Through information given in the dialogues in Miller's play The Crucible will the reader be told about the answers to the question, what the influences were that the main characters had on John Proctor. After the analysis of the protagonists a special analysis of John Proctor takes place which has the aim to describe his search for identity and resume and"
The Crucible

An introduction to Arthur Miller's play, "The Crucible," discussing the author's life, the impact of the play, its plot, cast of characters, literary criticism, and pertinence for today's audiences.

Arthur Miller's The Crucible Provides critical excerpts offering an overview of "The Crucible" including the conditions under which the work was written, a biographical sketch of the author, and a descriptive list of characters.

Fated

Quicklet on Arthur Miller's The Crucible Instructional materials for use with Arthur Miller's The Crucible. Includes a synopsis, time line of the action, themes and motifs, activities to promote comprehension, cross-curricular activities, a vocabulary test, two comprehension tests, and answer key.

The Scarlet Letter


Miller's Drama über die Hexenprozesse in Salem Village von 1692, geschrieben und uraufgeführt 1953, auf dem Höhepunkt der McCarthy-Verfolgungen. Bei aller historischen ›Treue‹ geht es um die prinzipielle Befindlichkeit einer Gesellschaft, die unter der Last der ihr aufgezwungenen Normen nicht existieren kann und die selbst zu elementarer
The Devil in Massachusetts A literary study guide that includes summaries and commentaries.

Characterization of Morality and Values in Arthur Miller's Play "The Crucible" The enduring classic drama of the Salem witch trials was inspired by the political witch-hunting activities of Senator Joseph McCarthy in the '50s. Though set in the 17th century, The Crucible presents issues still gnawing at modern society.

The Crucible by Arthur Miller Seminar paper from the year 2010 in the subject English – Literature, Works, grade: 1.7, Ernst Moritz Arndt University of Greifswald (Anglistik/Amerikanistik), course: Proseminar: Lost in Literature, language: English, abstract: What happened in Salem, in 1692, is today described as one of the darkest episodes in American history. Still today, historians try to find out what caused the disastrous outbreak of the witch craze but the only thing they can be sure about is that they can not explain why so many people had to die. "Accusations of witchcraft were not unusual in the seventeenth-century world []” What was so special about the time and place that such an outbreak of random accusations became possible? "[] “Salem" has become an icon in American culture. The trials have become a metaphor for hysterical prosecution, unfounded accusations, and confessions that have no reasonable explanation.” Believe in witchcraft had existed for hundreds of years before the hysteria broke out in Salem. The colonists who came to Massachusetts had a strong belief in the devil and his agents and were mainly Puritans, who came to America to gain religious freedom. There are many things you could compare between the historical account of the witch hunt and Arthur Miller’s play The Crucible. This paper is going to analyse the portrayal of a Puritan society in Miller’s play and will try to find out whether the religion of the people and therewith their way of life have caused the rising of the witch scare and the horrible outcome for the characters in the play. It is going to be analysed why normal people start accusing their neighbours and friends for witchcraft although many of them are aware of the consequences for the accused. At first it is going to be
described how Arthur Miller informed himself about the happenings of 1692 in order to underline his credibility of being able to create the Puritan society of that time. In the following the terms ‘Puritanism’ and ‘Puritan’ will be briefly defined. The main part of the paper will concentrate on the analysis of Puritan traits, beliefs, and lifestyles in The Crucible in order to find out whether they might have played a part in the catastrophe.

The Crucible

The Crucible

Contemporary critics analyze historical background, themes, structure, and characterization in Arthur Miller's study of the Salem witch trials.

The Crucible

This Student Edition of The Crucible is perfect for students of literature and drama and offers an unrivalled guide to Miller's classic play. It features an extensive introduction by Susan C. W. Abbotson which includes: a chronology of Miller's life and times; a summary of the plot and commentary on the characters, themes, language, context and production history of the play. Together with over twenty questions for further study, detailed notes on words and phrases from the text and the additional scene 2 of the second Act, this is the definitive edition of the play. In a small tight-knit community gossip and rumour spread like wildfire inflaming personal grievances until no-one is safe from accusation and vengeance. The Crucible is Miller's classic dramatisation of the witch-hunt and trials that besieged the Puritan community of Salem in 1692. Seen as a chilling parallel to the McCarthyism and repressive culture of fear that gripped America in the 1950s, the play's timeless relevance and appeal remains as strong as when the play opened on Broadway in 1953.

Arthur Miller's "The Crucible". A Story of Witch Hunting and the Red Scare

This dramatic and deeply moving book combines a narrative that has the pace and excitement of a novel, a timeless portrait of bigotry and a self-righteousness, and an authentic history of the Salem witch trials. It stands alone in applying modern psychiatric knowledge to the witchcraft hysteria. Nearly three hundred years ago the fate of Massachusetts was delivered into the hands of a pack of young girls. Because of the fantasies and hysterical antics
of unbalanced teenagers, decent men and women were sent to the gallows. Medical science that day had no better explanation than “the evil eye”; and so Massachusetts was precipitated into a reign of terror that did not end until the highest in the land had been accused of witchcraft—ministers, a judge, the Governor’s lady. One by one were brought to the gallows such diverse personalities as a decent grandmother; a rakish, pipe-smoking female tramp; a plain farmer who thought only to save his wife from molestation; a lame old man whose toothless gums did not deny expression to a very salty vocabulary. But from the very beginning some fought the hysteria, pitting sanity against insanity, and eventually forced the community to atone for its tragic error. Written with sly humor, much of the book reads like a novel. In the end, one is pretty sure what was wrong with Cotton Mather, the august judges, and the tormented young girls. “The Devil in Massachusetts is a vivid and compassionate reconstruction of the Salem witchcraft hysteria. Marion Starkey has written history which illustrates the past and at the same time packs and important contemporary moral.”—Arthur Schlesinger, Jr. “It is certainly a ‘one sitting’ sort of book, with the dramatic appeal of the well-told story and the significances of good human history.”—Gerald Warner Brace “A fresh and full narrationof one of the most lurid, pitiful and deeply significant episodes in American history.”—Odell Shepard

Arthur Miller's The Crucible The Crucible is a study in the mass hysteria which led to the 1692 Salem witchcraft trials, concentrating on the fate of some of the key figures caught up in the persecution. It powerfully depicts people and principles under pressure and the issues and motivations involved. At the same time, it is also a parable for the events of the McCarthy era in the USA of the 1950s when anyone suspected of left-wing views was arraigned for 'Un-American Activities'.

The Crucible A guide to reading "The Crucible" with a critical and appreciative mind. Includes background on the author's life and times, sample tests, term paper suggestions, and a reading list.

The Crucible [by] Arthur Miller THE STORY: The story focuses upon a young farmer, his wife, and a young servant-girl who maliciously causes the wife's arrest for witchcraft. The
farmer brings the girl to court to admit the lie--and it is here that the monstrous course of bigotry a

The Crucible The Crucible is a 1953 play by American playwright Arthur Miller. It is a dramatized and partially fictionalized story of the Salem witch trials that took place in the Massachusetts Bay Colony during 1692/93. Miller wrote the play as an allegory for McCarthyism, when the United States government ostracized people for being communists. Miller himself was questioned by the House of Representatives' Committee on Un-American Activities in 1956 and convicted of contempt of Congress for refusing to identify others present at meetings he had attended.

Arthur Miller's The Crucible This guide surveys the criticism surrounding two of Arthur Miller's most popular and widely-studied plays. From initial theatre reviews to twenty-first-century scholarship, Stephen Marino examines the major debates and trends of critical inquiry providing an essential resource for anyone with an interest in Miller's work.

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