

Name: _____

Full text of the play and study guide at www.mrmullen.pbworks.com. Click on “The Crucible” on the right of the page. Scoring rubric on the last page of this packet.

Answer each question. Write in complete sentences.

Plot

In five (5) complete sentences or fewer, **paraphrase**¹ the plot of *The Crucible* in your own words. Be precise. Identify the most important parts of the story: the **setting**², the **protagonist**³ and **antagonist**⁴, the **central conflict**⁵, the **climax**⁶, and the **resolution**⁷ of the story.

¹ **paraphrase**: to describe something that someone else has said or written using different words

² **setting**: the time and place where a story occurs

³ **protagonist**: the main character, usually sympathetic to the reader or audience; the hero

⁴ **antagonist**: the character who enters into conflict with the protagonist

⁵ **central conflict**: the most important, the most crucial issue in the story

⁶ **climax**: “moment of truth” that forces characters to confront the central conflict once and for all

⁷ **resolution**: part of the story where characters face the aftermath of the climax

Interpretation

A crucible is a container used in metalworking to separate elements into their pure forms. Materials are placed in the crucible and heated to high temperatures and **pressures**. The heat causes the material to separate into distinct parts. Precious metals like gold and silver are **purified** in this way. The word has also taken on a figurative⁸ meaning. A “crucible” is a difficult **test** or challenge that requires great effort and strength of character to endure.

Based on the information above, why do you think Arthur Miller called his play *The Crucible*? Give at least two examples from the story to support your answer. Write at least five (5) sentences.

(Hint: Think about the significance of the words in bold in the above paragraph and how they apply to characters and events in the play.)

⁸ figurative: not literal; imaginative

Scoring Rubric

- This packet is due during the first week of class, so it is a good idea to have it completed before the class begins. Late submissions can lose up to five (5) points per day.
- Each section of the packet is worth 20 points for a total of 60 points. Each section of the packet will be graded according to:
 - **Focus:** Did you answer the question? Did you stay on topic and avoid writing about things that are not relevant to the topic? (4 points)
 - **Content:** Did you write the required number of sentences? Did you provide evidence from the play to support your answers? Did you explain yourself sufficiently? (4 points)
 - **Organization:** Do your paragraphs have a topic sentence and supporting sentences? (4 points)
 - **Style:** Do you have a mix of long and short sentences? Is your writing clear and simple without any confusing words or phrases? (4 points)
 - **Conventions:** Is your writing neat and readable? Did you punctuate your sentences correctly? Are the words spelled correctly? (4 points)

Send an email to mullen@havsd.net if you have any questions about this packet or about *The Crucible*.