

Writing 4: The Crucible Today

Writing Prompt:

This is a timed writing assignment. You will have forty-five minutes to plan and compose your response. Select at least four quotations from Arthur Miller's The Crucible (one from each act) to summarize the play **and** discuss the universal significance of the entire work. In other words:

- tell the story of The Crucible through a minimum of four quotations;
- make a connection between that fictional world and the world we live in. Some possibilities include, but are not limited to:
 - What does the play say about life? truth? justice? greed? pride? jealousy?
 - What message does it communicate about relationships? respect? integrity?
 - Does this story tell you something about identity? law? community?
 - Can it be all about the tendency to follow emotions at the cost of hard evidence when hysteria strikes?
 - But how do any of those things, or anything else you discuss, relate to the world around us?

Grading:

Thesis/Organization – 120 points
Textual Details/Support – 120 points
Sentence Variety – 80 points
Conventions – 80 points

Rubric: English 3 and 4 Schoolwide Writing Rubric
Total Points Possible: 400

Though you are not restricted to these quotations and are welcome to pull quotations from the play that you think are of especial importance, below are the quotations we focused on as a class:

Act One

1. "Now look you. All of you. We danced...and I can make you wish you had never seen the sun go down!" (20)
2. "But I will cut off my hand before I ever reach for you again" (23).
3. "You will confess yourself or I will take you out and whip you to your death" (44).

Act Two

4. "I do not judge you. The magistrate sits in your heart that judges you" (55).
5. "Adultery, John" (67).
6. "Is the accuser always holy now?" (77)

Act Three

7. "Come now. You say your only purpose is to free your wife. Good then, she is saved at least this year, and a year is long" (92).
8. "But you must understand, sir, that a person is either with this court or he must be counted against it, there be no road between" (94).
9. "I promise you, Mr. Danforth, I only thought I saw them but I did not" (107).

Act Four

10. REMOVED
11. "It is a lie! They are innocent!" (132)
12. "Because it is my name! Because I cannot have another in my life!" (143)