

**Osceola Fundamental High School**  
**English 3 Honors**  
**Summer Reading Assignment**

Welcome to the English 3 Honors summer reading assignment. If you are looking for a challenging and thought-provoking course that will enable you to understand texts and write thoughtful compositions to prepare you for upper level work and college, you have come to the right place. We are passionate about the coursework, and we hope our enthusiasm will rub off on you.

As we spend our summer preparing for next year, we are requiring that you spend some time preparing for next year as well. Summer work is not something we assign to take the fun out of your summer. Rather, summer work serves two purposes: summer work allows the mind to stay sharp so that no time is lost at the beginning of the school year remembering the skills you have forgotten from last year and summer work prepares you with background information on topics to be covered during this upcoming year. In essence, you are maintaining the skills you already have while you prepare for the future.

1. This summer you will read *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller, a play about the mass hysteria of the Salem Witch Trials during the late 1600s, which on one level is an allegory for the 1950s Red Scare's persecution of supposed communist sympathizers. The following pages contain a two-part assignment that must be completed this summer.

**THE SELECTIONS:**

You will need to buy your own copy so you can mark them up while you read them.

*The Crucible* by Arthur Miller

ISBN# 0-14-048138-9 (or any other edition of this play published by Penguin Plays or Barnes & Noble)

If you have any questions regarding the summer reading assignment please email Pamela Eubanks: [eubanksp@pcsb.org](mailto:eubanksp@pcsb.org). You are expected to arrive in August ready to submit the assignment, discuss the work, and take a written test on the play. You will be tested on the content of *The Crucible* during the first week of school

**\*\*\*All assignments are due by the first day of class.\*\*\***

## ASSIGNMENT

Read Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* and investigate other sources on the author and the play to complete the following **two-part task**. Please **handwrite** your responses to each of the two parts. Label each section of each part. **Cite (MLA style) all evidence you use.**

### *PART I: Message/Argument (one page)*

#### **B. What shaped Arthur Miller's views and arguments in *The Crucible* or the views and arguments of his critics?**

*(If you can find why Miller wrote this play, you may be able to find commentary by literary critics who have given their opinion about why he wrote the play—Gale database or any other literary database- **be sure to cite your sources (MLA) to avoid plagiarism.***

- Include at least 3 PERSONAL FACTORS.
- Include at least 3 SOCIETAL FACTORS.

#### **B. Identify Miller's main argument in *The Crucible*.**

There are a number of ways to look at what the main argument is. According to one critic, the play is a “powerful indictment of bigotry, narrow-mindedness, hypocrisy, and violation of due process of law” that sometimes American society has fallen prey to. As Arthur Miller put it: “The political question of whether witches and Communists could be equated was no longer the point. What was manifestly parallel was the guilt, two centuries apart, of holding illicit, suppressed feelings of alienation and hostility toward standard, daylight society as defined by its most orthodox proponents.” Carefully think about these quotations and **write what you feel is the main argument as it applies to American society TODAY.** **Cite (MLA style) all evidence you use.**

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## ASSIGNMENT 2 Cont.

### *PART II: Analysis (Use a T-chart)*

#### A. LANGUAGE:

Give three quotes from the **play (3 additional to the one listed below)** with vivid words or figurative language (metaphor, simile, personification, etc.) Include page #s. → What is effective about what you've quoted?

Example:

| Figurative Language                                   | Effect of the Quote   |
|---|---|
| 1. "Oh, Elizabeth, your justice would freeze beer." → | Proctor uses this metaphor in conversation with his wife to show his bitterness toward his wife's attitude because she is still cold and unforgiving. |

#### B. RHETORIC:

Give three quotes (3 additional to the one listed below) showing how characters are influenced or persuaded (**whether the persuasion is valid/logical or not.**) Include page #s. → State what kind of persuasion it is. Logical? Emotional? Moral /Ethical? (Logos, Ethos, Pathos) and explain HOW it is.

Example:

| Quote  | Type of Persuasion and Explanation   |
|--|--|
| 1. "All the good and holy people have discovered witches. Aren't you a good and holy person? Who do you think is a witch?" | → This is an ethos or moral/ethical push. It uses peer pressure to make people accuse possibly innocent victims. In other words, all the good people are making accusations. Why aren't you? |

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