

11th Grade English Language Arts Summer Packet

Over the summer, you will read the, *The Crucible* written by Arthur Miller. After reading the play, select an essay topic from below.

***The Crucible* Summer Reading Essay Prompts**

Directions: Choose **one** prompt and write a 5-7 paragraph, academically cited essay.

* The essay should analyze and explain the greater meaning of the play. Please avoid mere plot summary*

1. In many works of literature, the title provides insight into themes and ideas of the work. Discuss how the title of *The Crucible* contributes to an understanding of the play. In what ways is the title significant? What does the title mean? Is it the best title for this play? What parts of the play support the literal and figurative definitions of “crucible”?
2. Critics disagree whether John Proctor or Abigail is the protagonist of this play. Adhering to the definition of the term, argue and support your choice of John Proctor or Abigail as the true protagonist. Who is ultimately more central to this story: John Proctor or Abigail Williams? Is John a “real” Puritan? Is Abigail?
3. Analyze characterization and character development. Pick one set of **foils** in the play and describe the importance of these characters to each other and the plot of the play. For example, you could discuss Elizabeth and Abigail, and describe how their relationship doomed John to certain disaster, etc.
4. Analyze gender in the play. How does Arthur Miller depict and treat women in the play?

Essay Guidelines

Essays should follow standard format including:

Introduction paragraph (50 points)-

- ❖ Must introduce the selected topic capturing the audience attention/interest.
- ❖ Must provide a preview of major points/issues—addressing all parts of the writing task—you plan to focus on throughout your paper.
- ❖ Must write a clearly written thesis statement: a statement of an essay's main idea/focus; all information in the essay supports or elaborates this idea.

Three- five Development (body) paragraphs (100 pts)-

- ❖ Each paragraph must present one of the major points/issues previewed in the introduction.
- ❖ Each paragraph must provide relevant and detailed evidence (facts, examples, statistics, citations from the novel, experiences, etc.) that supports the major point/issue presented.

Conclusion (50 points):

- ❖ Thesis statement must be reemphasized.
- ❖ Must highlight major points/issues. Provide closing remarks /closing statement.
- ❖ Note: Your paper must include at least four citations from the play, *The Crucible*. Your citations must be relevant to the selected topic, and support your thesis statement. Be sure to explain the significance of the citation in your composition.

Mechanics

The central idea must be clear and focused, and the writer must use creative, insightful details.

The organization helps unify the piece, and moves the reader easily through the text.

The voice of the writer comes through in the rich and precise word choice and their ability to exhibit good sentence structure.

The composition must demonstrate varied use of standard writing conventions with few errors.

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