

Unit 2 The Crucible

DIRECTIONS: After reading pages 1116-1125 in your textbook, use the space provided to answer the questions.

1. Stage directions are notes included in the play to describe:

2. Comedy is defined as:

3. Tragedy is defined as:

4. Two important elements of the tragic hero are that he be _____

whose downfall is caused by _____ . The flaw may be

caused by either _____

or by _____

5. A major difference between early tragedies and modern tragedies is: _____

6. One should pay close attention to transitions between scenes and acts because these changes often indicate

Author in Depth: Arthur Miller (1915-2005)

7. The most notable, recurring theme of Miller's work is that he:

8. What about Miller's youth suggests that his theme was one he understood personally?

9. What award did Miller earn for his second play?

10. Why was The Crucible not as critically successful?

11. What was Senator Joseph McCarthy "obsessive quest"?

12. In your own words, what are three components of this time period that Miller wants us to understand while reading The Crucible?

1.

2.

3.

13. What is HUAC? What power did they have?

14. What was the impact on Miller personally during the McCarthy era?

Contemporary Commentary: Arthur Miller on *The Crucible*

1. Briefly identify the "correspondence" Arthur Miller says he perceived in two widely separated periods of American history as he started to write *The Crucible*.

2. How does Miller connect the Salem witch hunt with poetry?

3. What specific similarities does Miller identify between the prosecutions and the confessions of the accused?

4. According to Miller, why has *The Crucible* become his most-produced play?

5. What questions for further research or investigation does this commentary leave you with? Identify at least two issues you would like to pursue as you read the play.