

Sample TOC and book unit for American Literature

Table of Contents
A Study in American Writers

	<u>Page</u>
Introduction	2
Teacher's Notes	4
Group Activities	
Honors Credit	
Concerning Writing	
The Process of Writing	
Essay Styles	
Essay Presentation	
Understanding the Units	
Special Features	
Evaluation Methods	
Final Note	
Support	
<i>The Crucible</i> by Arthur Miller	15
<i>To My Husband and Other Poems</i> by Anne Bradstreet	20
<i>Last of the Mohicans</i> by James Fenimore Cooper	23
<i>Gift of the Magi</i> and <i>The Ransom of Red Chief</i> by O. Henry	27
<i>Up From Slavery</i> by Booker T. Washington	31
<i>The Old Man and the Sea</i> by Ernest Hemingway	36
<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> by Harper Lee	40
Recommended Reading for Additional Honors Materials	44
Glossary	45
Appendix A – Editing Checklist	47
Appendix B – Characterization Graphic Organizer	48
Appendix C – Point of View Notes	49
Appendix D – Resources	51
Appendix E – Plot Map	53
Appendix F – Vocabulary Suggestions and Lists	54
Appendix G – Grading Rubrics for Major Assignments	58
Appendix H – Grading Suggestions and Tools	69

The Crucible

by Arthur Miller

Setting Time Period: Colonial America

Reading level: Challenging (content, play format, high interest)

Time Frame for Completion: 4-6 weeks reading one act per week with extra time for writing assignments, as needed

Objectives

Literary:

1. Understand how to read a play
2. Learn about time period writing
3. Recognize the role of the **setting** in drama
4. Discover the use of **characterization** as a literary tool
5. Recognize the **theme** in a play
6. Define **allegory** and recognize its use in literature

Language/Other Subject Connections:

1. Write a narrative essay about feeling persecuted or being tempted to do something wrong.
2. Learn about the historical significance of the Salem Witch Trials and McCarthy Era.
3. View this play from a Biblical **worldview** examining the ramifications of lying, self-preservation and **legalism**.



Literature Summary: Based on the Salem Witch Trials of 1692, Miller wrote this play as an allegory of his time period, which was the McCarthy era when Senator Joseph McCarthy accused many people of un-American behavior by exposing their supposed communist connections and activities. The play is about a 12-year-old girl, Anne Putnam, giving false accusations and supposed sightings of Salem's citizens holding black Sabbaths and following Satan. A pastor, Samuel Parris, leads in the supposed exposing of the Salem residents which eventually concluded with nineteen people being hung and one person being pressed to death.



Preparatory Reading Assignment: Chapters 1-5 and pages 223-226 in *How to Read a Book*. These chapters and pages should be read thoroughly and discussed for comprehension prior to reading the play. The first five chapters may be summer reading or read a few weeks prior to beginning the course because they do contain a great deal of important information about reading in general.



Literature Assignments

Prior to reading *The Crucible*, discuss "theme" with your student. As he reads, have him look for the main theme in the play. See the glossary for a definition of theme.

PR, AR 1. Research the Salem Witch Trials and McCarthyism. Write a $\frac{3}{4}$ - 1 page overview of each. Your points can be bulleted or written in paragraph form. Be prepared to present your overviews orally.

PR, AR 2. Research Arthur Miller, the playwright, and discover the following: the decade in which he wrote *The Crucible*, why he wrote the play and any other plays he has written. This may be presented as a written assignment or as an oral narration assignment.

AR, FR 3. Note how Arthur Miller sets the stage in this act through description and dialogue. Write down three direct quotes from the play demonstrating his creative use of both to reveal the setting to the reader.

AR, FR 4. Discuss lying, legalism and self preservation from a Biblical perspective. Was a Biblical perspective utilized by the characters in the play, even the clergy? Research to find scripture that reveals what the Bible says about these topics. Find at least two verses related to each. Could you have used specific verses to protect yourself from being convicted of witchcraft?

PR, AR, FR 5. Write a narrative essay, 5-8 paragraphs long, about one of the following:

- A time when you were tempted to lie or be disobedient in order to avoid getting into trouble, but chose not to. What caused you not to lie or disobey? How do you think others might have been affected if you had lied or disobeyed?
- A situation where someone else lied and you were negatively impacted by that person lying.
- A time when you were wrongly accused and had difficulty defending yourself.
- A time when you stood up for someone or something because of what you believed, even when others weren't supportive.

FR 6. Visit the following National Geographic website and follow along with the interactive model to become one of the accused on trial. Be sure to read all of the detailed information at the end. Check out what happens if you confess and if you tell the truth.

www3.nationalgeographic.com/salem/



Honors Assignments

FR 1. Read about the real historical events as compared to the play's presentation at www.17thc.us/docs/fact-fiction.shtml. Select one of the written assignments at the bottom to explore in essay form.

FR 2. Create a *Crucible* newspaper that covers the Salem Witch Trials as they happen. Remember, you are just reporting the news and you shouldn't show bias in either direction. Also note that this was a frightening, serious time for Salem residents, many of whom were Puritans. The material should be handled with the proper respect and dignity. Include at least 5 articles of 250-300 words each. Add in graphics and other important information such as weather forecasts, births and deaths, map of the area showing where significant events supposedly occurred, etc. Some interesting article ideas might include:

- How to avoid looking like a witch or someone involved in black magic
- Report on court proceedings
- Interviews from both sides, those who believe that witchcraft is occurring and those who don't
- Interviews with family members of those on trial
- How to protect yourself and your family from witchcraft
- Summary of the most recent church sermon.

Evaluation Tips:

Literature Assignments

1. *Research on Salem Witch Trials and McCarthyism*

- This assignment should be the student's original writing, although it is research based.
- The writing should be grammatically correct and clearly articulated. Points should be deducted for spelling, punctuation and grammar errors.
- The assignment should be within the page length requirements and neatly presented, as discussed in the *Teacher's Notes* on page 7 under *The Process of Writing*.
- In weighing the grade for this assignment, we recommend the following percentages or points based on a 100 point scale:
 - Content of subject matter 50%
 - Grammar, punctuation, and spelling 20%
 - Clarity of written communication 20%
 - Presentation (typed, titled, etc.) 10%

2. *Research on Arthur Miller*

For written assignments:

- This assignment should be the student's original writing, although it is research based.

Sample TOC and book unit for American Literature

- The writing should be grammatically correct and clearly articulated. Points should be deducted for spelling, punctuation and grammar errors.
- The assignment should be within the page length requirements and neatly presented, as discussed in the *Teacher's Notes* on page 7 under *The Process of Writing*.
- In weighing the grade for this assignment, we recommend the following percentages or points based on a 100 point scale:
 - Content of subject matter 50%
 - Grammar, punctuation, and spelling 20%
 - Clarity of written communication 20%
 - Presentation (typed, titled, etc.) 10%

For oral presentations:

As this is an oral presentation, the focus for a grade needs to be on that aspect of the assignment. In weighing the grade for this presentation, we recommend the following percentages or points based on a 100 point scale:

- Preparedness of material to be presented. 25%
- Presentation of material including eye contact, smooth speech patterns and organized speaking. 25%
- Clear articulation. 15%
- Topic is well represented by content of material. 35%

3. *Setting Established Through Description and Dialogue*

This assignment should be graded based on the following criteria:

- At least three excerpts from the play revealing the setting through description and/or dialogue are included.
- The assignment is neatly presented.

Point deductions should be made for punctuation, grammar and other writing errors.

4. *Lying, Legalism and Self Preservation*

This assignment has two different aspects to grade: the discussion and the research aspect. For the discussion, the student may be graded on participation level. The student's second grade should be given for finding at least two appropriate scripture verses for each concept. This assignment may be graded as a pass/fail, with the student either doing enough to get a passing grade or having to do more in order to pass. For more information about this type of grading, see page 12 of the *Teacher's Notes*.

5. *Narrative Essay*

- Remember to look back at the *Teacher's Notes* on page 7-9 as a reminder of the general areas you should be considering with this written assignment.
- The primary goal with this essay style is to tell a story. Therefore your most significant evaluation question is, "Does this

Sample TOC and book unit for American Literature

written work tell a story based on the selected topic in a clear and chronological manner?"

- In weighing the grade for this essay, we recommend the following percentages or points based on a 100 point scale:
 - Narrative style maintained 25%
 - General essay rules (introduction, thesis statement, paragraph transition, well formed paragraphs, conclusion) 20%
 - Grammar, punctuation, and spelling 15%
 - Clarity of written communication 15%
 - Deadlines maintained and all components included (thesis statement, outline, notes, drafts and final essay) 15%
 - Presentation (typed, titled, etc.) 10%

6. Interactive Salem Witch Trial

As this assignment mainly requires the student to read and complete the interactive game, the grade is simply based on completion of the project. An informal oral narration would also be appropriate to check comprehension of the activity. This assignment may be graded as pass/fail, with a passing grade for completing the interactive game.

Honors Assignments

1. Essay options

This essay evaluation depends on which topic is selected by the student. In general, follow these guidelines for grading the essay:

- Clear presentation of selected topic with valid and supported points 25%
- General essay rules (introduction, thesis statement, paragraph transition, well formed paragraphs, conclusion) 20%
- Grammar, punctuation, and spelling 15%
- Clarity of written communication 15%
- Deadlines maintained and all components included (thesis statement, outline, notes, drafts and final essay) 15%
- Presentation (typed, titled, etc.) 10%

2. Crucible Newspaper

There are various aspects of this assignment that need to be considered when grading. We recommend the following percentages or points based on a 100 point scale:

- Five or more articles of appropriate length 25%
- Other creative components such as graphics, headlines, weather forecasts, etc. 20%
- Grammar, punctuation, and spelling 10%
- Clarity of written communication 10%
- Overall presentation in newspaper format 10%