



Prestwick House
Response Journal™

Sample

Prestwick House

Response Journal

Reflections: A Student Response Journal



The Crucible
Arthur Miller

Click here
to learn more
about this
Response Journal!



Click here
to find more
Classroom Resources
for this title!



Prestwick House

More from Prestwick House

Literature

Literary Touchstone Classics
Literature Teaching Units

Grammar and Writing

College and Career Readiness: Writing
Grammar for Writing

Vocabulary

Vocabulary Power Plus
Vocabulary from Latin and Greek Roots

Reading

Reading Informational Texts
Reading Literature



 Prestwick House
Response Journal
Reflections: A Student Response Journal



The Crucible
Arthur Miller



Prestwick House

P.O. Box 658, Clayton, DE 19938

www.prestwickhouse.com

1-800-932-4593

Copyright © 2002 by Prestwick House, Inc., P.O. Box 658, Clayton, DE 19938.
1-800-932-4593. www.prestwickhouse.com Permission to copy this unit for
classroom use is extended to purchaser for his or her personal use. This material, in
whole or part, may not be copied for resale.

ISBN 978-1-60389-527-9

Item No. 201490

Response Journal

To The Student

Although we may read a novel, play, or work of non-fiction for enjoyment, each time we read one, we are building and practicing important basic reading skills. In our ever-more complex society, in which reading has become more and more crucial for success, this, in itself, is an important reason to spend time reading for enjoyment.

Some readers, however, are able to go beyond basic reading techniques and are able to practice higher thinking skills by reflecting on what they have read and how what they read affects them. It is this act of reflection—that is, stopping to think about what you are reading—that this journal is attempting to encourage.

To aid you, we have included writing prompts for each section; however, if you find something that you wish to respond to in the book more compelling than our prompts, you should write about that. We hope you enjoy reading this book and that the act of responding to what you have read increases this enjoyment.

After you read the indicated sections, choose the questions to which you will respond. Keep in mind that there are no right or wrong answers to these prompts, and there is no one direction in which you must go.

The Crucible

Act I

1. The play begins with Reverend Parris praying. In the Act One “Overture,” Miller writes that Parris “cut a villainous path, and there is very little good to be said for him.” Write a “Help Wanted” ad that expresses the qualities you think are valuable in a spiritual leader. Compare and contrast those qualities with Parris’ description.
2. When Miller describes the two-man patrol, he comments that the people of Salem have a tendency to mind other people’s business. Even now, over three hundred years later, we find ways throughout our country to do the same. One of these ways is with well-concealed cameras that film people in public places. The persons being filmed are generally unaware that they are being watched and filmed. Think about whether you feel this is a good idea or not. Complete the following dialogue you might have with the Mayor of your town about cameras in operation where you live:

You: It’s good of you to see me, Mayor. I’m concerned about the hidden cameras in our town. I feel that...

3. Arthur Miller writes of the differences between the settlers of Jamestown in Virginia and the Puritan settlers of Massachusetts. He states that the main difference in the ability to survive the harsh conditions in 1600’s America was that the Jamestown settlers were individualists looking for financial profit, and the Puritans acted as a community and with a spiritual motivation. Think about your own life. Are you an individualist, or are you a person who is more comfortable as part of a group? Imagine that this question is part of a test requiring you to write an essay about that subject. Write an answer to that essay question in no less than ten complete sentences, giving details of why you feel that way. Begin your answer as follows:

Regarding my preference to be an individualist or a member of a group, I’d have to say...

Act II

12. Elizabeth and John Proctor's conversation over dinner seems to show that he is trying hard to please her, but he becomes angry when Elizabeth wants him to go to the Court in Salem and tell the truth about Abigail's lying accusations. Imagine you are Elizabeth's best friend. Recount the conversation that Elizabeth might have had with you in which she unburdened herself about her worries and her marriage to John. Begin the conversation as follows:

Elizabeth: Thank Providence that I have you for a friend whom I trust utterly. I just have to tell ...

13. Proctor says, "Lilac is the smell of nightfall, I think." Our sense of smell has a powerful effect on our memories. Make a list of eight different smells you associate with different places, season, events, etc., in your past. Two examples are supplied for you:

chalk dust – the first day of school

salty air – summer at the beach

14. John gets into trouble with his wife when she catches him lying about being alone with Abigail. Write a paragraph of no less than eight sentences about a time when you or someone you know was caught in a lie and how you felt when it happened. It is not necessary to use any real names in your paragraph.
15. John is angry that Mary disobeyed Elizabeth and went to town. Who makes decisions about when you can go out, how late you can stay out, where you go, and who you can go with? What factors determine whether you're allowed to go?

The Crucible

Act IV

41. A jail in Salem, Massachusetts in the 1600's was dark, wet, cold, and usually rat-infested. Since those times, the conditions inside a prison have steadily improved. Opinion is divided as to whether our present-day prisons should be as comfortable as they are (television sets, overnight visits of spouses, special meals, etc.). Given the fact that prisons are a realistic necessity, make a list of what you feel an ideal prison should be like. Your list should include the things the prison should not have as well as the things it should have. Follow the format below:

PRISON SHOULD HAVE

PRISON SHOULD NOT HAVE

42. Danforth warns Herrick, "Beware hard drink." Considering that nearly half of the prison population of this country is there because of either alcohol or drugs, Danforth was right in his warning. Write a public service announcement for television that would warn people of the risks they run when they drink alcohol.
43. Hale returns with the intention of convincing others to confess to witchcraft, despite knowing that they are innocent. You have probably seen this plea made by lawyers on television crime programs many times. If you were accused of a serious crime that you did not commit and were offered a lighter sentence if you confessed, would you confess? In a short paragraph, explain why you would or would not confess to a crime you did not commit.
44. Abigail has stolen thirty-one pounds from Parris. Make a "Wanted Poster" for Abigail. Include a description of her, why she's wanted, where she might be headed, and any other appropriate information.
45. John Proctor, Rebecca Nurse, and Martha Corey are scheduled to hang. Choose one of these characters and write his or her will. You can include personality traits as well as material things. For example, Rebecca might will her kindness and compassion to the children of Salem.

WRAP UP

53. The ending of this play could be considered tragic. Can you think of a better ending, or do you think this is a good ending because it is appropriate?
54. What do you think of the title of the story? Did you understand its significance? Can you come up with a better title?
55. Write a letter to a friend telling why you did or did not like *The Crucible*.
56. If you were to tell a friend what you think the message of this novel is, what would it be?
57. Write a list of three things you liked best, and three things you liked least about *The Crucible*?