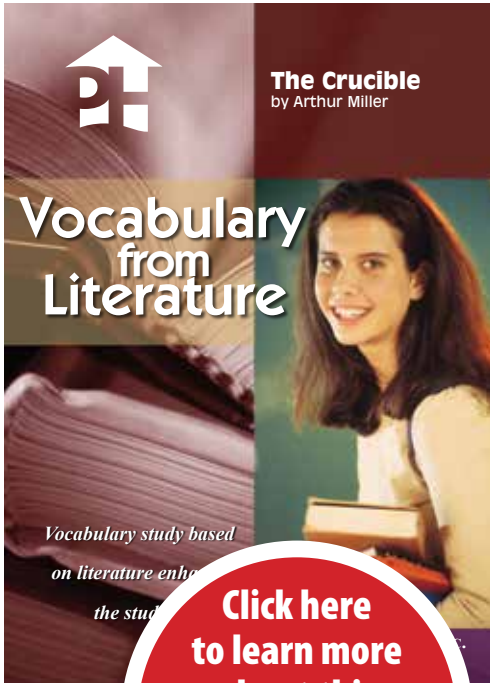




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Vocabulary From Literature for...

The Crucible

by Arthur Miller

written by Lori White

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The Crucible

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The Crucible

Information for Instructors

The activities in this Unit are designed to help students increase their vocabulary by studying the meanings of words selected from Arthur Miller's novel *The Crucible*. All definitions provided in these activities are based on the contexts in which the vocabulary words appear, which may not always convey the words' conventional usage.

It is the goal of this Unit to familiarize students with vocabulary words that they will re-encounter in life and in other readings. The words are carefully selected to meet this goal. Many unfamiliar words not covered by the Unit are defined in a Glossary following the Activities section; the Glossary may also contain slang expressions and proper nouns.

Rather than matching *The Crucible* chapter-for-chapter, we have divided the book into segments depending on the number of vocabulary words from each chapter. While all of the activities may be completed by students individually, we have had the best results when students worked on them in pairs or small groups. The following activities are provided for each segment.

While the words in this reproducible do represent those necessary for a better understanding of the text, our primary concern is that we select words not only pertinent to the literature, but also useful in other aspects of the students' lives. In addition, activities may vary slightly among the various chapters.

All page references come from the Penguin Plays edition of *The Crucible*, published 1976.

Activity I

Objective: Using a dictionary to find definitions and interpret them

Activity II

Objective: Deciphering the meaning of vocabulary words using context clues
Replacing the vocabulary word with appropriate definition or synonym(s)

Activity III

Objective: Writing definitions, synonyms, and/or sentences based on context clues

Vocabulary From Literature

Activity I
Matching Definitions
Act I

Directions: Match each of the words below with its definition based on the content in which the word appears in the book. Use the page numbers in parentheses to locate the word. Then, look up the word in the dictionary, and change any answers that are not correct.

fanatics (4)	creed (4)	magistrates (5)	parochial (5)
heathen (5)	autocracy (6)	junta (6)	paradox (7)
theocracy (7)	dissembling (9)	trafficked (10)	conjured (10)
faction (10)	providence (13)	parish (14)	

- _____ government in which one person has unlimited control
- _____ people motivated by extreme, irrational enthusiasm
- _____ very limited or provincial in scope and outlook
- _____ an administrative or ruling council
- _____ a pagan, uncultured, or uncivilized person or people
- _____ local officers having power to administer and enforce law
- _____ any system or doctrine of belief
- _____ invoked a spirit or devil through an incantation
- _____ lying or concealing with false appearance
- _____ traded with another, usually in an illegal enterprise
- _____ something that exhibits a contradictory nature
- _____ a manifestation of divine care and guidance
- _____ form of government in which God and His laws, as interpreted by ecclesiastical rulers, hold supreme law of the land
- _____ an ecclesiastical district composed of its own church, clergy, and congregation
- _____ a smaller dissenting group within a larger organization

Vocabulary From Literature

Activity V
Words from Latin and Greek Roots
Act I

- I. The word *autocracy* comes from two Greek words. *Autos* means “self,” while the *-cracy* ending means “rule” or “power.”

Use a dictionary to look up the words for different kinds of government in the right-hand column below. Then match them to the people who govern in each.

In a: the people who rule are:

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 1. democracy | a. priests/ religious authorities |
| 2. plutocracy | b. “the best,” i.e., those born into good families |
| 3. aristocracy | c. the common people |
| 4. theocracy | d. the very wealthy |

- II. Some other words that come from the *theo* root that appears in “theocracy”:

theology atheist polytheistic monotheism pantheon

Use each of these words to fill in one of the sentences below.

1. The religion is _____, with twelve gods and goddesses representing various natural forces.
2. In the _____ of cycling champions, he stands out as the one with the most heart.
3. The _____ of Judaism made it different from other religions, which had more than one—indeed, usually ten or more—god.
4. We were surprised when a woman who had been a lifelong _____ became a priest.
5. Marcus often had arguments about _____ with the imam and other members of his mosque.

The Crucible

Activity III
Synonyms
Act III

Directions: Replace each highlighted word in the following passages from the text with an appropriate synonym. If you need help, consult a dictionary. Note that some words are in *italicized* sections, which represent stage directions.

1. And being what she is, a lump of **vanity**, sir—*He is being overcome*. Excellency, forgive me, forgive me. *Angrily against himself, he turns away from the Governor for a moment. Then, as though to cry out is his only means of speech left:* She thinks to dance with me on my wife's grave! And well she might, for I thought of her softly. God help me, I lusted, and there is a promise in such sweat. But it is a whore's vengeance, and you must see it; I set myself entirely in your hands. I know you must see it now.

DANFORTH, *blanched, in horror, turning to Abigail:* You deny every scrap and **tittle** of this? (Pgs. 110-111)

Synonym for **vanity**:

Synonym for **overcome**:

Synonym for **blanched**:

Synonym for **tittle**: