



# Knowledge Organiser: Year 8

## The Crucible

Act I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Reverend Samuel Parris discovers that his daughter Betty, who is lying unconscious in her bed, along with his niece Abigail and Tituba (a black slave), were dancing in the forest outside of Salem at midnight.</li><li>Mary Warren blames witchcraft for Betty's illness and Betty wakes up during an argument and confronts Abigail accusing her of casting a spell in order to kill Goody Proctor.</li><li>Putnam accuses Proctor of stealing wood from his land, but Proctor says he bought the land five months before from Goody Nurse's husband.</li><li>Mrs. Putnam admits that she sent Ruth to Tituba so that Tituba could conjure Ruth's dead sisters in order to find out who murdered them. Hale questions Tituba and tells her that she can redeem herself by admitting that she has been working with the Devil.</li><li>Abigail admits that she has given herself to the Devil. She accuses Goody Good and Goody Osburn, along with Bridget Bishop of witchcraft. Betty wakes up and claims that she saw George Jacobs and Goody Howe with the Devil.</li></ul>
Act II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Abigail and Betty began accusing individuals of witchcraft.</li><li>Elizabeth Proctor tells Proctor that Mary Warren has been named an official of the court. Elizabeth tells Proctor that he must go to Salem and reveal that Abigail is a fake. Mary Warren gives Elizabeth a poppet that she made while in court.</li><li>Thirty-nine people are in jail, and Goody Osburn will hang because she did not confess to witchcraft.</li><li>Elizabeth realizes that Abigail wants to take her place as Proctor's wife. Hale tells Elizabeth and Proctor that Elizabeth was named in court. Hale questions Proctor about his poor attendance in church. Hale asks Proctor to recite the Ten Commandments. Proctor tells Hale that Abigail admitted to him that witchcraft was not responsible for the children's ailments. Hale asks Proctor to testify in court that Abigail is a fraud.</li></ul>
Act III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The court questions and accuses Martha Corey of witchcraft</li><li>Proctor tells Danforth that Mary Warren did not see spirits.</li><li>Elizabeth advises she is pregnant and Proctor tells the court that she would not lie. Danforth agrees to let Elizabeth live for another year, because of the unborn child.</li><li>Danforth summons Abigail and three of the girls into the vestry room, where he questions Abigail. She denies Mary Warren's charge that she is lying and that she falsely accused Elizabeth Proctor.</li><li>Proctor calls Abigail a whore and tells the court about their affair. When Danforth asks Elizabeth why she dismissed Abigail, Elizabeth lies, concealing Proctor and Abigail's affair.</li><li>Abigail and the girls again begin accusing Mary Warren, who recants again and claims that Proctor forced her to say that Abigail is lying.</li></ul>
Act IV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Parris tells Danforth that Abigail and Mercy Lewis have disappeared. Abigail robbed Parris, and he believes she and Mercy boarded a ship.</li><li>Hale asks Elizabeth to convince Proctor to admit his guilt so the court would not hang him, in order for the people not overthrow the court.</li><li>Proctor confesses verbally to witchcraft but refuses to implicate anyone else. Proctor signs his name on a document but tears this up when they advise that it will be placed on the church door.</li><li>Hale begs Elizabeth to convince Proctor again, but she refuses and says she is now at peace with herself.</li></ul>

### Themes (AO1)

**Reputation:** Miller explores the significance of reputation as the townsfolk fear that the sins of their friends and associates will taint their names. Proctor's desire to keep his good name leads him to make the heroic choice not to make a false confession and to go to his death without signing his name to an untrue statement.

**Hysteria:** A critical theme in The Crucible is the role that hysteria can play in tearing apart a community. Hysteria replaces logic, it thrives only because people benefit from it. It suspends the rules of daily life and allows the acting out of every dark desire and hateful urge under the cover of righteousness.

**Intolerance:** This theme is prevalent in the play. There is no room for deviation from social norms. In Salem, everything and everyone belongs to either God or the devil; dissent is not merely unlawful, it is associated with satanic activity.

### Literary/Structural Terminology (AO2)

**Foreshadowing:** Is a literary device in which a writer gives an advance hint of what is to come later in the story.

**Symbolism:** Is a literary device that uses symbols, be they words, people, marks, locations, or abstract ideas to represent something beyond the literal meaning.

### Historical context (AO3)

The play is set in Salem, Massachusetts in 1692. The Crucible is one of the most well-known examples of political theatre, with the witch hunt functioning as a direct allegory for the anti-communist hysteria of the period when Miller wrote the play. The US Government were fearful of subversion, and espionage and believed that the Russians posed an imminent danger. Miller recognised similarities between the Salem trials and the trials being held by the government, which encouraged citizens to betray each other.

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# How do we use Knowledge Organisers in English

## How can you use knowledge organisers at home to help us?

- **Retrieval Practice:** Read over a section of the knowledge organiser, cover it up and then write down everything you can remember. Repeat until you remember everything.
- **Flash Cards:** Using the Knowledge Organisers to help on one side of a piece of paper write a question, on the other side write an answer. Ask someone to test you by asking a question and seeing if you know the answer.
- **Mind Maps:** Turn the information from the knowledge organiser into a mind map. Then reread the mind map and on a piece of paper half the size try and recreate the key phrases of the mind map from memory.
- **Sketch it:** Draw an image to represent each fact; this can be done in isolation or as part of the mind map/flash card.
- **Teach it:** Teach someone the information on your knowledge organiser, let them ask you questions and see if you know the answers.

## How will we use knowledge organisers in English?

- **Test:** We will do regular low stakes tests to check your ability to retrieve information from memory.
- **Mark our answers:** Once you have done a low stake test you can mark your work using the knowledge organiser.
- **Improve our work:** Once you have finished a piece of work you may be asked to check your knowledge organiser to see if there is any information on it that you could add into an answer.

Date	Section of knowledge organiser	Score

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