

The Crucible Vocabulary

(page numbers in appear in parentheses)

ACT ONE

- 1. ideology** (6) – a manner or the content of thinking characteristic of an individual, group, or culture
- 2. paradox** (7) – a statement that is seemingly contradictory or opposed to common sense and yet is perhaps true
- 3. theocracy** (7) – government of a state by immediate divine guidance or by church officials who are regarded as divinely guided
- 4. villainy** (7) – wretched, evil conduct
- 5. hearty** (8) – strong, healthy
- 6. quaking** (8) – trembling, shuddering, quivering with fear
- 7. dissembling** (9) – concealing the facts; hiding under a false pretense
- 8. propriety** (9) – socially acceptable behavior and speech
- 9. heathen** (10) – an uncivilized or irreligious person; pagan
- 10. witched** (10) – affected by witchcraft; in a spell
- 11. opened** (10) – been honest; told the complete truth
- 12. trafficked** (10) – traded; had dealings or associations
- 13. conjured** (10) – summoned a devil or spirit by invocation or incantation
- 14. faction** (10) – group; secret faction; clique
- 15. abominations** (11) – sources of utter disgust or intense dislike; hateful, disgusting actions
- 16. gibberish** (11) – unintelligible or meaningless language; nonsense
- 17. white** (12) – free from moral impurity; pure
- 18. Goody** (12) – used as a title preceding a surname—a usually married woman of lowly station
- 19. sniveling** (12) – speaking or acting in a whining, sniffing, tearful, or weakly emotional manner
- 20. deference** (12) – respect and esteem due a superior or an elder
- 21. marvel** (12) – something that causes wonder or astonishment
- 22. providence** (13) – event guided by God or divine leadership
- 23. ail** (13) – suffer ill health
- 24. naught** (13) – nothing
- 25. dwindling** (14) – steadily lessening
- 26. demonic** (14) – possessed or influenced by a demon; satanic; fiendish
- 27. vindictive** (14) – disposed to seek revenge
- 28. smirched** (15) – discredited or disgraced

- 29. corroborating** (15) – supporting with evidence or authority
- 30. junctures** (15) – points of time
- 31. abyss** (15) – an immeasurably deep gulf or great space
- 32. intimations** (15) – hints; suggestions
- 33. formidable** (16) – dreadful; fearful; extremely serious
- 34. blink** (16) – deny; ignore; pretend not to see
- 35. undone** (16) – ruined; destroyed the worldly means, reputation, or hopes
- 36. trepidation** (18) – timorous uncertain agitation; apprehension
- 37. weirdish** (18) – of, relating to, or caused by witchcraft or the supernatural; strange
- 38. subservient** (18) – servile; cringing manner of one very conscious of a subordinate position
- 39. pointy** (20) – sharp; painful
- 40. hypocrites** (20) – persons who put on false appearances of virtue or religion
- 41. partisans** (20) – members of party, faction, or cause
- 42. calumny** (20) – the act of uttering false charges or misrepresentations maliciously calculated to damage another’s reputation
- 43. inert** (20) – motionless; inactive
- 44. titillated** (21) – aroused; excited
- 45. sidles** (21) – moves or turns sideways in a furtive manner
- 46. pilgrimage** (21) – journey to a shrine or sacred place
- 47. pretense** (24) – false show
- 48. covenanted** (24) – formally enrolled in the church
- 49. notorious** (25) – widely and unfavorably known
- 50. prodigious** (25) – strange; unusual; portentous
- 51. canny** (25) – clever, shrewd, crafty
- 52. exudes** (25) – spreads out in all directions
- 53. arbitrate** (25) – to determine the outcome of a dispute
- 54. contiguous** (26) – touching along a boundary or at a point
- 55. defers** (28) – submits to another’s wishes, opinion, or governance usually through deference or respect
- 56. fathom** (28) – understand
- 57. break charity with** (31) – become alienated from
- 58. clap** (31) – attack with a lawsuit
- 59. defamation** (31) – slander; the act of uttering false charges or misrepresentations maliciously calculated to damage another’s reputation

60. anarchy (32) – a state of lawlessness or political disorder due to the absence of governmental authority

61. tract (32) – a defined area of land

62. inculcation (34) – teaching and impressing by frequent repetitions or admonitions

63. avidly (39) – eagerly

64. licentious (41) – lacking legal or moral restraints

65. *In nomine Domine Sabaoth sui filiiue ite ad infernos* (42) – Latin for “In the name of the Lord Sabaoth and of his son, depart to hell.”

66. blanched (42) – became ashen or pale

67. evade (43) – to avoid answering directly

68. truck (43) – have dealings; trade

69. compact (44) – make an agreement; enter into a contract

ACT TWO

70. “...the crowd will part like the sea for Israel” (53) – a reference to Moses’ leading the Israelites from Egypt and the parting of the waters of the Red Sea (Exodus 14:21)

71. pallor (55) – paleness

72. poppet (56) – small doll

73. ameliorate (56) – to make better or more tolerable

74. indignant (57) – showing anger aroused by something unjust, unworthy, or mean

75. crone (58) – a withered old woman

76. sarcastical (60) – in a scornful, mocking or derisive manner

77. “from this out” (60) – from now on

78. “cry me out” (60) – accuse me as a witch

79. wily (64) – crafty; cunning

80. flailing (67) – searching in frustration

81. daft (68) – mad; insane

82. suspicion (69) – a state of mental uneasiness and uncertainty

83. tainted (71) – contaminated; corrupted

84. quail (71) – to recoil in dread or terror

85. “I’d as life” (72) – I’d rather

86. Pontius Pilate (77) – Roman governor of Judea who presided at the interrogation of Jesus in the New Testament

ACT THREE

- 87. vestry** (83) – an elective body in an Episcopal parish composed of the rector and a group of elected parishioners administering the temporal affairs of the parish
- 88. abundant** (83) – marked by great plenty
- 89. sophistication** (85) – cultured; knowledgeable
- 90. wrath** (85) – retributory punishment for an offense or a crime
- 91. riot** (85) – public violence, tumult, or disorder
- 92. affidavit** (86) – a sworn statement in writing made especially under oath or on affirmation before an authorized magistrate or officer
- 93. deposition** (88) – testimony taken down in writing under oath
- 94. imperceptible** (92) – extremely slight, gradual, or subtle
- 95. deferentially** (93) – in a manner of showing respect and esteem due a superior or an elder
- 96. befuddled** (94) – muddled, stupefied, confused
- 97. plaintiff** (95) – a person who brings a legal action against another
- 98. effrontery** (98) – shameless boldness
- 99. immaculate** (99) – spotlessly clean
- 100. qualm** (99) – misgiving; a feeling of uneasiness about a point especially of conscience or propriety
- 101. ipso facto** (100) – Latin for “by the fact itself”
- 102. probity** (100) – honesty; integrity; adherence to the highest principles and ideals
- 103. gait** (101) – pace; a manner or rate of movement or progress
- 104. callously** (101) – in a manner of feeling or showing no emotion
- 105. manifest** (102) – evidence; appearance; sign
- 106. auger** (102) – a tool used for boring or drilling holes
- 107. incredulously** (104) – skeptically; with disbelief
- 108. base** (108) – degrading; contemptuous
- 109. slovenly** (112) – lazily slipshod
- 110. unperturbed** (115) – untroubled
- 111. gulling** (117) – taking advantage of; deceiving

ACT FOUR

- 112. presently** (121) – soon
- 113. stench** (124) – foul odor; stink

- 114.** **gaunt** (125) – excessively thin and angular
- 115.** **agape** (126) – being in a state of wonder
- 116.** **strongbox** (126) – locked box for keeping valuables
- 117.** **gibbet** (127) – gallows; an upright post with a projecting arm for hanging the bodies of executed criminals as a warning
- 118.** **excommunication** (128) – exclusion from the rights of church membership
- 119.** **conciliatory** (129) – eager to make peace, to reconcile
- 120.** **beguile** (129) – deceive by guile; hoodwink
- 121.** **floundering** (129) – proceeding or acting clumsily or ineffectually
- 122.** **reprieve** (129) – to delay the punishment of
- 123.** **retaliation** (129) – returning like for like; vengeance for an injury
- 124.** **adamant** (130) – unyielding; unshakable or immovable especially in opposition
- 125.** **perfection** (130) – completion
- 126.** **cleave** (132) – cling; to adhere firmly and closely or loyally and unwaveringly
- 127.** **disputation** (132) – verbal controversy; debate; argument
- 128.** **sibilance** (133) – a hissing sound
- 129.** **tantalized** (138) – teased, fascinated

Work Cited

Miller, Arthur. *The Crucible*. East Rutherford: Penguin, 1981.