***The Crucible:* Act 1**

Below are the main points for this piece. As we read and discuss, take notes of the material.

**Characterization:** the process by which a writer reveals the personality of a character; **direct characterization** allows the writer to explicitly state character traits**; indirect characterization** is asking the reader to make inferences about a character based on the character’s actions, words, dress, interactions with others, and private thoughts.

**Conflict**: the struggle between opposing forces or characters in a story; **external conflict** can exist between two people or a person and a force or nature, machine, or society; **internal conflict** involves opposing forces within a person’s mind

**Setting:** the time and location in which a story takes place [used to create conflict, atmosphere or mood, and characterization

**Foreshadowing:** the use of hints and clues to suggest what will happen later in the plot

**Allegory**: a story in which characters, events, and settings stand for other people or events or abstract ideas

\*\* See notes on **tragedy** and **stage direction** for other literary term definitions

Reminder: we have open-notebook quizzes AND a notebook check!!!

**Before Reading:**

* Historical Context: This play was written in the 50’s as a response to McCarthyism – but it is about the Salem Witch Trials. How are they similar?
* Examine the title: According to Webster’s, a crucible is defined as: a place or occasion of severe test or trial; a place or situation in which different elements. Based on what you know about the play, why do you think Arthur Miller choose this title?

**During Reading:**

1. Why would Miller include the note on historical accuracy?

2. What was Samuel Parris’s attitude toward children?

3. Who are Reverend Parris, Betty, and Abigail? What is their relationship?

4. Who is Tituba? What is her relationship to the family?

5. What is wrong with Betty?

5. Why does Parris suggest calling in Reverend Hale?

6. Why do you think Rev. Parris has many enemies?

7. Who are Ann and Thomas Putnam? What do they suggest is Betty's problem? What is their motivation for suggesting this?

8. Who is Ruth? What is wrong with her? How do the Putnams tie her problem to Betty's?

9. What does the conversation (after the adults leave) between Abigail, Mercy Lewis, Mary Warren, and Betty reveal about their recent activities?

10. Give three characteristics of John Proctor.

11. What event transpired between Abigail and John Proctor prior to the beginning of Act One?

12. What does Abigail say about Elizabeth Proctor? How might this affect the outcome of the play?

13. What happens to Betty when she hears the Lord's name?

14. Why didn't the Putnams like the Nurses?

15. What does Rebecca say about Betty's condition?

16. Give two examples that Proctor, Putnam, and Corey give for why Parris is an unsuccessful minister.

17. What is the Putnam's grievance over land? What significance might this have?

18. Describe Giles Corey in one sentence.

19. How does Miller describe Reverend Hale?

20. How and by whom are the other villagers accused of witchcraft? What is the motivation of the girls' accusations? How many people are accused on the last page of Act one?