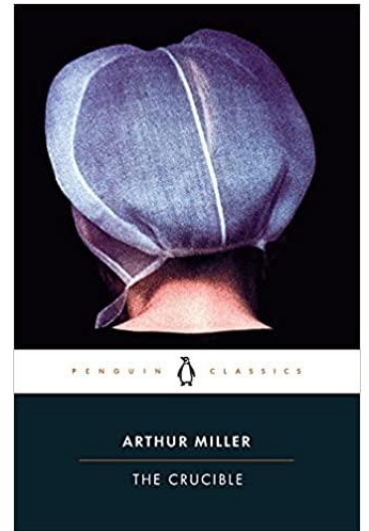


English 9H Summer Assignment, 2026-2027

Contact teacher Erin Atkinson at erin.atkinson@signature.edu with questions.

Read and annotate *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller and its introduction, published by Penguin Classics. (ISBN-10: 9780142437339 or ISBN-13: 9780142437339). The 1953 play, an allegory,¹ dramatizes the Salem, MA, witch trials in 1692-1693. Miller wrote the play during the Red Scare of the 1950s, when the U.S. government persecuted people who were believed to be communists. If you'd like more details, you can watch the video "What is McCarthyism? And how did it happen?" by Ellen Schrecker:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N35IugBYH04>



You should also read and annotate the introduction. It provides important information that will help you grasp the context of the play. You may find it helpful to read the introduction after you complete the play, because the information is dense and may be confusing if you are not familiar with Miller's work.

When you annotate a text, you make notes in the margins to help you find patterns in the text worthy of analysis. Because this is a play, be sure to read the stage directions, too. In the edition pictured, **Act II Scene 2 is included at the end, in the appendix. Include that portion in your reading and annotating.**

I will check your annotations on the first day of class (a 45-point assignment). Good annotations focus on patterns (themes, characterization, figurative language, foreshadowing, etc.), not exclusively plot summary or unfamiliar vocabulary words. They allow you to interact with the text, reacting to the events and preparing to analyze the work. It is perfectly acceptable to include comments in the margins that focus on your shock, surprise, or other reactions to the characters' choices. Be personal! When you make notes in the book, the amount you annotate will vary, but use your best judgment here. Go beyond summarizing the plot points at the end of an act or defining words. Here are two videos that explain annotation pretty well:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tEMNDdfLWDA>
("How to annotate text: Highlight and Rewrite" by School Habits)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w5Mz4nwcIWc>
("How to Annotate a Text While Reading" by School Habits)

Your assignment is due on the first day of class. Here is how it will be graded:

- Annotations are worth 45 points. I will collect your annotated book on the first day of class. Here is the criteria on the rubric:
 - Annotations focus on patterns (themes, characterization, figurative language, foreshadowing, symbolism, motifs, details, etc.), not exclusively summary or unfamiliar words (0-20 pts)
 - Annotations show the reader's personal interaction with the story. (0-15 pts)
 - Annotations in the introduction focus on the text's historical significance. (0-10 pts)

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Barnes & Noble: [The Crucible at B&N](#) • Amazon.com: [The Crucible at Amazon](#)

¹ a story, poem, or picture that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning, typically a moral or political one.