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American Studies English

***The Crucible:* Pre-reading Questions**

1. What was Massachusetts like in the early colonial period of American history?
2. Who were the Puritans, and why did they come to America in the 17th century?
3. What characteristics are associated with Puritan culture?
4. What were the Salem Witch Trials?
5. What was the Cold War? What was the “Red Scare”?
6. What does the term “mob mentality” mean? What are some examples of mob mentality being exercised in today’s society?
7. What is a tragic hero? Identify an example of a tragic hero.
8. Match the following key terms related to dramawith the correct definition.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_dialogue a. occurs when the opposite of what is expected to happen occurs

2. \_\_\_\_\_\_monologue b. a major unit in a play; similar to a chapter in a book

3. \_\_\_\_\_\_soliloquy c. a character whose traits contrast with those of another character

4. \_\_\_\_\_\_dramatic irony d. occurs when the audience knows more than the character(s)

5. \_\_\_\_\_\_situational irony e. when a character speaks to himself/herself to reveal private thoughts

6. \_\_\_\_\_\_foil f. the emotions invoked within a reader or audience

7. \_\_\_\_\_\_mood g. a long speech given by a character in the presence of other characters

8. \_\_\_\_\_\_tone h. the author’s attitude towards a subject

9. \_\_\_\_\_\_act i. smaller divisions within a play; defined by the changing of characters

10. \_\_\_\_\_scene k. lines spoken by characters in a play

1. View the trailer for the film adaptation of *The Crucible.* Based off of the trailer, what themes do you think might be present in the play?

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iUIAxTxrnCc