



Key Characters		Context	Some of the vocabulary you'll read during this unit:
<p>Play structure</p> <p>Act 1 is set in the home of Reverend Paris. His daughter, Betty, is in a coma-like state after dancing in the forest with other girls. John Proctor arrives, followed by Reverend Hale. Hale quizzes Abigail and Tituba, who were present in the forest. Tituba confesses to communicating with the devil, whilst Abigail claims to have seen the devil conspiring with other townspeople.</p> <p>Act 2 takes place at the home of John Proctor and his wife Elizabeth; they discuss the ongoing trials and the escalating number of townsfolk who are accused of being witches. Elizabeth urges her husband to denounce Abigail as a fraud; he refuses, and she becomes jealous, accusing him of still harboring feelings for her following an affair. Officers of the court suddenly arrive and arrest Elizabeth.</p> <p>Act 3 sees the drama unfold in the courtroom as the trials take place. Attempts to prove the girls are lying fail.</p> <p>Act 4 is set in jail. The play reaches its dramatic climax.</p>		<p>Arthur Miller was born in American in 1915. He initially subscribed to the concept of the American Dream but later saw it as a failure when his family lost their money in the Wall Street Crash. A successful playwright, Miller published 'The Crucible' in 1953. The timing is significant as during the 1950s, America was at war with USSR (The Cold War). Americans were fearful that Russia would take over and impose communism on them. Politician, Joseph McCarthy, claimed to have a list of communists within the state department. Although the list was never seen, this sparked media frenzy, public panic and the formation of the HUAC (The House Committee on Un-American Activities). The HUAC (led by McCarthy) interviewed citizens suspected of communist or anti-American activities. Those who were accused often lost their jobs, homes and families. McCarthyism furthered the panic and hysteria within the country and eventually society became paranoid, making false accusations (based on rumour not evidence) to avoid being tainted themselves. Arthur Miller himself was accused, after writing the play 'The Crucible'. America's McCarthyism parallels Salem, Massachusetts in 1692 when the village was tormented by the hysteria of witchcraft allegations and the subsequent witch trials. At this time, Salem was a strictly Puritan society where residents lived a religious life and were constantly afraid that they would not be saved by God. The witch trials fizzled out after residents became disenchanted by the number of accusations and deaths (19 hanged, 1 pressed and many imprisoned).</p>	<p>Arbitrate: to act as an impartial judge in order to settle disputes. as clean as God's fingers pure or perfect, in the way that all parts of God are flawless.</p> <p>Autocracy: a government in which one person has absolute power; dictatorship; despotism.</p> <p>Base: having or showing little or no honor, courage, or decency; mean; ignoble; contemptible.</p> <p>Beguile: to mislead by cheating or tricking; deceive.</p> <p>Bound: under compulsion; obliged; here it means in service to.</p> <p>Break charity: to treat wrongfully or betray.</p> <p>Calamity: deep trouble or misery; any extreme misfortune bringing great loss and sorrow; disaster.</p> <p>Calumny: a false and malicious statement meant to hurt someone's reputation. clapped put, moved, set swiftly (clapped into jail).</p> <p>Conjure up: to raise spirits from the dead. contemptuous full of contempt; scornful; disdainful.</p> <p>Diabolism: dealings with the Devil or devils, as by sorcery or witchcraft.</p> <p>Defamation: damaging another individual's character or reputation, generally through false accusations.</p> <p>Perjury: perjury the willful telling of a lie while under lawful oath or affirmation to tell the truth in a matter material to the point of inquiry.</p>
Key Terminology		Sound It Out	Etymology- Word Origins
Core	Base	Bays	Greek- Basis meaning pedestal or stand
	Conjure Up	Cun-Jur Up	Latin -Conjurare meaning bring together
Intermediate	Calamity	Ca- La-Mi-Tee	Latin- Calamitas meaning disaster
	Beguile	Bee-Guy- Al	English Guile meaning deceive
Advanced	Diabolism	Di-Ah-Boh-Lis-Um	Latin diabolicus meaning 'of the devil'
	Defamation	De-Fa-May-Shun	Latin diffama meaning reputation
	Perjury	Pur-Joo-Ree	Latin perjurium meaning false.