

# *The Crucible*



A play by Arthur Miller  
Published in 1953

# Questions at Issue:

1. What is personal power and how can people use it to influence others?
2. How do our relationships with others influence our own use of power?
3. In a culture where we are bombarded with other people trying to control us, how do we make decisions for ourselves?
4. How can we use our personal power effectively and ethically?

# Unit Goals

- Synthesize (connect) concepts between the play, videos, and articles read in class
- Use close readings of text, images, and videos to make meaning
- Engage effectively in collaborative conversations
- Write and edit arguments to support claims
- Write and edit an analytical essay examining a character's use of power throughout the play

# Arthur Miller Biographical Information

*Take notes!*

*Select one of the following prompts... We will write for 3 minutes*

1. Why might Miller have felt so outraged at the investigations of the HUAC?
2. Think about your own experience with power. Where in your life do you have power? How do you earn, get, or keep that power? Do you treat those you have power over with humanity?
3. Who do you feel has power over you? How did they earn, get, and maintain it? Do you feel others treat you with humanity?

## Video: “First Freedom”

*Please take notes on:*

1. Connections to “Of Plymouth Plantation”
2. The gender power imbalance in the Puritan society
3. A response to the following question:

*Can a society that seeks religious freedom for itself also extend it to others who do not believe the same way?*

# Make a Prediction

Given the information you have learned so far in “The Lottery,” “Of Plymouth Plantation,” Arthur Miller’s biographical information, and the video, “First Freedom,” make a prediction about the play.

What will the play be about? How will power be involved?

*Predictions should be 1-2 complete sentences*

# Get textbooks!

Please take the textbook whose number matches that on your desk.

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