Background Work for The Crucible

Rationale All English 11 students need to read The Crucible this year. To that end, and because we will be reading parts along with viewing the filmed version together as a class, I am assigning a series of topics to be explored before we study the play.

Resources

The Crucible libguide is a website filled with links to rich background information that will aid you before and during your reading of the play. http://esmhs.esmschools.libguides.com/crucible

Work INDIVIDUALLY to examine content found through links in the libguide to answer each of the following questions/prompts in YOUR OWN WORDS. There is no need to cite your answers because all students will be using information from the same bank of resources that Mrs Padjen and I have vetted.

Tasks

Research Day (2/1&2)

On the assignment in our google classroom titled “Crucible Research” Create one google doc and copy/paste the questions listed below for each of the topics you choose to research. Next, examine The Crucible Libguide and answer each question with a 1-2 sentence answer in your own words. All questions should be in burgundy and all answers should be in black, please.

Presentation Prep Day (2/3&6)

1. Working collaboratively, create one set of google slides that is shared with all members of your group. Create a title slide with your names and the topic. Then create one slide for each question. Type the question and insert an appropriate image that will help you explain the answers you’ve collected in response to the question. These slides are meant to organize and support your research, but not to explain it using text. In other words, the only text allowed on a question slide is the question.

2. Delegate who will present each question/answer and who will field follow up questions. Then create a cue card to use during the presentation. You may print out your research if you choose as long as it does not hold up the presentation.

Presentation Day (2/7&8)

● Presenters must submit slides on the GCA before class.
● Presenters must arrive with their respective roles in the group presentation already prepared.
● All students will be invited to take notes during presentations and participate in Q&As after.

Pick Your Own Grade

95-100 show evidence of 8-9 tasks
86-94 show evidence of 6-7 tasks
76-85 show evidence of 4-5 tasks
66-75: show evidence of 2-3 tasks

All tasks must be completed by due dates specified on this form and on our google classroom.

● Answer questions for topic 1 correctly
● Answer questions for topic 2 correctly
● Answer questions for topic 3 correctly
● Answer questions for topic 4 correctly
● Answer questions for topic 5 correctly
● Work collaboratively to create google slides on one topic
● Present your research to the class
● Take notes by hand during class presentations to answer any/all questions
● Offer feedback through questions and comments after presentations
TOPIC 1: New England in the 1690s
What type of people settled Massachusetts?
How did they survive?
What were their main fears and insecurities?

TOPIC 2: Witchcraft: Background
What is witchcraft? Who practiced it?
What social and religious factors are given to account for the harsh response to witchcraft?
What can you find out about modern witchcraft or wicca? - just brief ideas

TOPIC 3: The Salem Witch Trials of the 1690s
What led to these trials?
Who was involved - as prosecutors? As victims?
What were the outcomes of the trials?

TOPIC 4: McCarthyism and the crackdown in the 1950s
What was the Cold War?
What was McCarthyism? Who was Joe McCarthy? What were his aims? Methods? Who were his victims?
What lead to his eventual downfall?
What is his legacy in history?

TOPIC 5: Arthur Miller
Key events in his life.
What are a few other works he has written?
His beliefs/political outlook including communist connections.

I will be signing out a copy of *The Crucible* for you to read along with our film study in class. If you are absent for any of the classes when we watch the film, I highly suggest listening to the audiobook linked here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aly8LgLfYoy8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aly8LgLfYoy8) and following along in your book to be prepared when you return to class.