

ELA 10

Ms. Regan

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Summer Reading Assignment **Due on first day of class—Quiz grade**

Welcome in advance to ELA 10! I am looking forward to meeting you in September. We have a rigorous class ahead. Read the following book over the summer and respond to the questions that follow.

We will be acting out this book in class and then having a formal debate on the root cause of the Salem Witch Trials on Halloween.

Book:

The Crucible, by Arthur Miller

Genre & Format:

Historical Fiction; Play

Summary:

It is 1692, in the small village of Salem, Massachusetts. Around midnight, a group of girls sneak from their homes and meet in secret in the woods. One of them, named Abigail Williams, drinks chicken blood as a magic spell to kill the wife of the man she loves.

The next morning, young Betty Proctor and Ruth Putnam will not wake up.

The adults of Salem panic. Rumors of witchcraft spread through the village. Abigail threatens the girls into silence and claims Tituba, her friend and her uncle's slave, cast a spell on her. Soon, more and more neighbors are accusing each other of witchcraft, and by the end of the mass hysteria, nineteen villagers are hung on Gallows Hill. One man was crushed to death.

You may have visited Salem on a field trip or around Halloween. You may have seen some small, unmarked gravestones. The major events in this play—the accusations, the trials, the hangings—*did* actually happen.

Your Assignment

Respond to the questions on the attached pages. Defend your claims with evidence, and don't forget to cite each piece of evidence, whether it is paraphrased or quoted.

Forgot how? Here's an example:

Abigail is sneaky. "...I have seen some reddish work done at night, and I can make you wish you had never seen the sun go down!" (Act 1, p. 20).

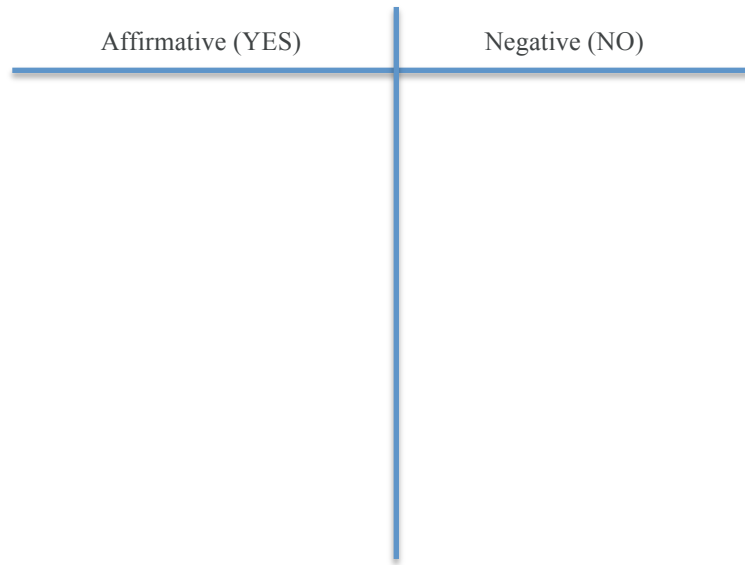
claim

evidence

citation

Act One: *Betty Paris' bedroom.*

CLAIM: Abigail is someone I would have wanted to be friends with.



Who has social power within the group, and who does not? Respond in the table below:

“Insiders” (Those respected by the group; the “cool” people)		“Outsiders” (Those shunned; the ones the group puts down)	
Characters	Evidence	Characters	Evidence

Act Two: Proctor's house.

Do you think you would have enjoyed living in the Puritan community? What are the pros and cons about their way of life? Be specific and cite at least 4 pieces of evidence. You may have more for one side than the other. (You may use information from Act One as well.)

Pros	Cons

What elements existed or were created within the Puritan community to allow Abigail and the other girls to gain power? Think about their rules, their values, etc.

Act Three: The courtroom.

In the courtroom, Mary and Abigail are each battling for Danforth to believe them. What arguments do they use to try to succeed?

Mary V. Abigail	
Mary's arguments that SHE is telling the truth	Abigail's arguments that SHE is telling the truth

Whose arguments are more credible? Why?

Why does Abigail win?

Act Four: A jail cell.

CLAIM: Proctor should tell the truth.

Affirmative (yes)

Negative (no)

Debate Preparation...

On Halloween, you will be participating in a formal debate. Remember, this is historical fiction; the Salem witch trials actually happened.

The question:

What was the root cause of the Salem witch trials of 1692?

There will be four teams and a committee of judges. Teams will pick one of four claims at random out of a box.

Claims:

- Religion – The Puritan’s religion is to blame for this.
- Lack of Science – This is all a result of the Puritan’ lack of modern scientific knowledge.
- Poor Parenting – The Puritan parents are to blame for this.
- Economics – The poor were jealous of the rich.

Which claim above do you feel is the **strongest**? Which is the **weakest**? Brainstorm as much as possible below to have a one-up on your opponents. When you meet with your teams, you will be sharing these ideas.

Strongest debate claim: _____ Reasoning: _____

Weakest debate claim: _____ Reasoning: _____

Claim I hope I get: _____ Reasoning: _____

Done! See you in September!

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