

The Crucible Essay

(Of Doom and Despair)

In keeping up with the Puritan theme of doom and despair, I have decided to have you write one more essay this quarter for English 10...as soon as you are done crying, we will move on...ready?

Alright then, here we go! As you know, we have spent a great deal of time this quarter working with the concept of Allegories.

al·le·go·ry /ˈæl.ə.gôr.ē/ 

Noun:

1. A story, poem, or picture that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning, typically a moral or political one.
2. The genre to which such works belong.

Synonyms: parable

Keeping with that definition, we are going to explore exactly how Arthur Miller was able to use the play as an allegory for what he went through in the 1950s. For this essay, I would like you to pick at least 3 hidden meanings to identify and analyze. What you pick does not necessarily have to be a “universal theme” though. Themes to consider: Hysteria, hypocrites, spectral evidence, stereotyping, truth, honor, reputation, closed societies, closed-mindedness, etc.

Your body paragraphs should analyze various messages that Arthur Miller claimed were problematic for human nature.

1. Explain the concept and why it is so dangerous
2. Possibly mention what Arthur Miller went through
3. Show how the play creates and allegory of the message (your proof).

Don't forget to set up the quotes you use but don't get so long winded that your essay sounds like a summary. Remember, you are trying to prove your thesis!

Requirements:

1. 3 pages, double-spaced, size 12 font.
2. No personal pronouns “I, me, we, our, you, yours”
3. You must find at least one solid example of the Arthur Miller message you are trying to prove. More examples will make your case stronger.
4. You must have at least 2 strong quotes per body paragraph. Remember, your quotes need to emphasize the point, not a narration of the story.
 - a. Bad Example: When John Hale arrived people were excited, “John Hale arrived.”