

# The Crucible Vocabulary

## ACT ONE

1. ideology: a manner or thinking of an individual, group, or culture
2. paradox: a seemingly contradictory statement that is perhaps true
3. theocracy: government by immediate divine guidance or by church officials who are regarded as divinely guided
4. dissembling: concealing the facts
5. propriety: socially acceptable behavior and speech
6. heathen: an uncivilized or irreligious person; pagan
7. trafficked: traded; had dealings or associations
8. conjured: summoned a devil or spirit by invocation or incantation
9. faction: group; secret faction; clique
10. abominations: sources of utter disgust or intense dislike; hateful, disgusting actions
11. Goody: used as a title preceding a surname—usually a married woman of lowly station
12. sniveling: speaking or acting in a whining, sniffing, tearful, or weak manner
13. deference: respect and esteem due a superior or an elder
14. providence: event guided by God or divine leadership
15. demonic: possessed or influenced by a demon; satanic; fiendish
16. smirched: discredited or disgraced
17. corroborating: supporting with evidence or authority
18. junctures: points of time
19. abyss: an immeasurably deep gulf or great space
20. intimations: hints; suggestions
21. formidable: dreadful; fearful
22. blink: deny; ignore; pretend not to see
23. trepidation: timorous uncertain agitation; apprehension
24. subservient: servile; cringing manner of one very conscious of a subordinate position
25. pointy: sharp; painful
26. partisans: members of party, faction, or cause
27. calumny: the act of uttering false charges or misrepresentations maliciously calculated to damage another's reputation
28. inert: motionless; inactive
29. titillated: aroused; excited
30. sidles: moves or turns sideways in a furtive manner
31. pilgrimage: journey to a shrine or sacred place
32. pretense: false show
33. covenanted: formally enrolled in the church
34. notorious: widely and unfavorably known
35. prodigious: strange; unusual; portentous
36. canny: clever, shrewd, crafty
37. exudes: spreads out in all directions
38. arbitrate: to determine the outcome of a dispute
39. contiguous: touching along a boundary or at a point
40. defers: submits to another's wishes, opinion, or governance usually through deference or respect
41. break charity with: become alienated from
42. clap: attack with a lawsuit
43. defamation: the act of uttering false charges or misrepresentations maliciously calculated to damage another's reputation
44. inculcation: teaching and impressing by frequent repetitions or admonitions
45. avidly: eagerly
46. licentious: lacking legal or moral restraints
47. blanched: became ashen or pale
48. evade: to avoid answering directly
49. truck: have dealings; trade
50. compact: make an agreement; enter into a contract

## ACT TWO

1. pallor: paleness
2. poppet: small doll
3. ameliorate: to make better or more tolerable
4. indignant: showing anger aroused by something unjust, unworthy, or mean
5. crone : a withered old woman
6. wily: crafty; cunning
7. flailing: searching in frustration
8. daft : mad; insane
9. quail : to recoil in dread or terror

## ACT THREE

1. vestry: an elective body in an Episcopal parish composed of the rector and a group of elected parishioners administering the temporal affairs of the parish
2. sophistication: cultured; knowledgeable
3. affidavit: a sworn statement in writing made especially under oath or on affirmation before an authorized magistrate or officer
4. deposition: testimony taken down in writing under oath
5. imperceptible: extremely slight, gradual, or subtle
6. deferentially: in a manner of showing respect and esteem due a superior or an elder
7. befuddled: muddled, stupefied, confused
8. plaintiff: a person who brings a legal action against another
9. effrontery: shameless boldness
10. immaculate: spotlessly clean
11. qualm: misgiving; a feeling of uneasiness about a point especially of conscience or propriety
12. ipso facto: Latin for "by the fact itself"
13. probity: honesty; integrity; adherence to the highest principles and ideals
14. gait: pace; a manner or rate of movement or progress
15. callously: in a manner of feeling or showing no emotion
16. manifest: evidence; appearance; sign

17. auger: a tool used for boring or drilling holes
18. incredulously: skeptically; with disbelief
19. base : degrading; contemptuous
20. slovenly: lazily slipshod
21. unperturbed: untroubled
22. gulling: taking advantage of; deceiving

## ACT FOUR

1. gaunt: excessively thin and angular
2. agape: being in a state of wonder
3. strongbox: locked box for keeping valuables
4. gibbet: gallows; an upright post with a projecting arm for hanging the bodies of executed criminals
5. excommunication: exclusion from the rights of church membership
6. conciliatory: eager to make peace, to reconcile
7. beguile: deceive by guile; hoodwink
8. floundering: proceeding or acting clumsily or ineffectually
9. reprieve: to delay the punishment of
10. retaliation: returning like for like; vengeance for an injury
11. adamant: unyielding; unshakable or immovable especially in opposition
12. cleave : cling; to adhere firmly and closely or loyally and unwaveringly
13. sibilance : a hissing sound
14. tantalized: teased, fascinated