

ANNOTATION GUIDE: THE CRUCIBLE

Annotating as you read will help you to better comprehend the play, make connections between the surface level and the deeper, implied meanings in the work, AND it will make it easy for you to go back and study for the reading check quizzes.

Remember:

- **Throw away your highlighter!** Instead take concrete notes that will help you jog your memory when you study
- **Come up with a system:** Underline important seeming quotes or passages, circle repeated phrases, put a *star* by words you do not know, etc.
- **Make connections:** to historical events, real life situations that come to mind, previous events in the text etc. etc.
- **Ask questions!** Write them in the margins so you can discuss them in your small group or ask about them in class

Tips for annotating *The Crucible*:

- **Make connections to the background information** we are learning about in class: Arthur Miller's life, Puritanism, McCarthyism, and The Salem Witch Trials
- **Make a character chart** in the front or back of your book to help keep track of each character
- **Consider the following essential questions** and make connections to them as you read. How does the play attempt to answer these questions?
 - *How has the concept of civil disobedience influenced America?*
 - *What is the role of the individual in society?*
 - *What is good for the community? What are implications for individuals?*
 - *Why do people conform? Why do others choose not to conform? What happens as a result of these choices?*

Students who heavily annotate their copy of the play may receive extra credit on reading check quizzes.

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