The Crucible Vocabulary: Act I

1) crucible (noun) [KROO-suh-buhl] – 1) a heat-resistant container in which ores, metals, and impurities are melted; 2) bottom of a furnace; 3) testing circumstances that cause people to change; 4) an ordeal or severe trial

2) inert (adj.) [in-URT] – 1) unable to move or act; 2) sluggish in action or motion
   Ex: Wiped out after such a tremendous undertaking, he was inert from exhaustion.
   [inertly – adv.]

3) ingratiate (verb) [in-GRAY-shee-ate] – to gain favor with someone by deliberate efforts
   Ex: Chuck tried his best to ingratiate himself with his boss by bringing her coffee.

4) paradox (noun) [PAR-uh-doks] – 1) a statement or idea that seems self-contradictory or absurd but in reality expresses a possible truth
   Ex: It is paradoxical that standing is more tiring than walking.
   [paradoxical – adj.; paradoxically – adv.]

5) dissemble (verb) [di-SEM-buhl] – to conceal one’s true motives or thoughts often by giving a false or misleading appearance
   Ex: Buster dissembled his appearance in order to sneak into the party he wasn’t invited to.
   [dissembler (noun) – one who dissembles]

6) begrudge (verb) [bi-GRUHJ] - 1) to envy or resent the pleasure or good fortune of someone else; 2) to be reluctant to give or allow
   Ex: We all begrudged Jim his new Porsche.
   Ex: She did not begrudge the money spent on her children’s education.
   [begrudgingly – adv.] Ex: Begrudgingly, I gave my phone to the teacher.

7) formidable (adj.) [FAWR-mi-duh-buhl] – 1) causing fear or apprehension; 2) discouraging because of awesome strength, power, size, or strength
   Ex: Despite its cute appearance, the kitten was quite a formidable opponent.
   [formidability – noun]

8) trepidation (noun) [trep-i-DAY-shuhn] – 1) a state of alarm, dread, or apprehension; 2) involuntary trembling or quivering
   Ex: I feel a massive amount of trepidation about taking my driver’s license test.
   [trepidatious – adj.]

9) reckon (verb) [REK-uhn] – 1) to count, compute, or calculate; 2) to settle accounts, as with a person (often followed by “up”)
   reckoning (noun) – 1) a count or calculation; 2) the settlement of accounts between parties
   Ex: A good business must reckon its profits and expenditures regularly.
   Ex: Some believe there will be a day of reckoning, when our good and bad deeds will be measured.
10) partisan (noun/adj.) [PAHR-tuh-zuhn] – a biased, even blind supporter of a person, group, or cause, often not willing to listen to other people’s opinions
   Ex: A partisan to her political party, Rita blindly voted only for candidates who were Democrats, without ever giving any of the other nominees a chance.
   [partisanship – noun]

11) titillate (verb) [TIT-l-ate] – to excite or arouse agreeably
   Ex: The sight of the birthday balloons titillated the young girl.
   [titillation – noun; titillating – adj.]

12) pretense (noun) [pri-TENS or PREE-tens] – an act that is actually pretend or false; a piece of make-believe
   Ex: When I told you I loved you, it was merely pretense.

13) licentious (adj.) [li-SEN-shuhs] – 1) sexually unrestrained; 2) lawless or immoral
   Ex: Politicians and priests are judged most harshly for their licentious behavior.
   [licentiousness – noun; licentiously – adv.]

Words used in the Puritan era we no longer use or use differently

Goody (proper noun) a term meaning Mrs., a title for a married woman, short for “Goodwife”
sport (adj) – for fun or play
dumb (adj) – mute, unable to speak
wits (noun) – intelligence; mental faculties
yeomanry (noun) – a class of English commoners who owned and farmed their own land and later a British volunteer cavalry force, formed in 1761
truck (verb) – to barter or exchange with; to have dealings with

Whenever you are asked to include a vocabulary word we are studying in an assignment or piece of writing, make sure you do the following:

1. **Use the correct part of speech for the word.** You can’t use an adjective as a verb, etc.

   **WRONG:** Because I was so tired, I inerted on the couch all afternoon.

   Inert is an adjective, not a verb.

2. **Make sure the sentence contains enough information to show that you know the meaning of the word.**

   **EXAMPLE:** If you were to write the sentences below, I wouldn’t be able to tell that you understand the meaning of the word inert.

   I felt inert after school.  OR  My inert dog is named Howard.

3. **Always underline or highlight the vocabulary word in your sentence.**
1. **condemn** (verb) [kun-DEM] – 1) to give someone a legal sentence; 2) to judge someone as guilty; 3) to say that someone or something is bad or unacceptable; 4) to force someone to experience something unpleasant; 5) to ban the use of something
   
   Ex: The murderer was **condemned** to life in prison.
   
   [condemnation – noun; condemnable – adj.]

2. **lofty** (adj.) [LAWF-tee] – 1) very high or tall; 2) of high rank or character; 3) elevated and in tone or style, such as writing or speech that may use a formal, important tone; 4) acting with an arrogant or superior manner
   
   Ex: The movie was filled with many **lofty** idea, but I just wanted to laugh and see cool effects.
   
   [loftiness – noun; loftily – adj.]

3. **bewilder** (verb) [bi-WIL-der] – 1) to confuse or puzzle someone
   
   Ex: The twists and turns of the cave soon **bewildered** me.
   
   [bewildered (adj.) – to feel confused; bewilderedness – noun]

4. **ameliorate** (verb) [uh-MEEL-yuh-rate] – to improve or make something better or more bearable
   
   Ex: Tylenol will **ameliorate** the pain of a headache. *(We typically use this when talking about something that needs improving—that’s in a negative state. We wouldn’t say “I ameliorated the chocolate sundae by adding a cherry and hot caramel sauce.”)*
   
   [ameliorable – adj.]

5. **indignant** (adj.) [in-DIG-nunt] – feeling angry or upset at the injustice, unfairness, or unreasonableness of something
   
   Ex: After her brother received a new car for his birthday, Jill was **indignant** because she had only been given a card on hers.
   
   [indignation – noun]

6. **avid** (adj.) [AV-id] - eager for or enthusiastic about something
   
   Ex: At the end of the summer, I had no money left because I am an **avid** moviegoer and I spent all my time at the theater.
   
   [avidly – adv.]

7. **civil** (adj.) [SIV-uhl] – 1) polite, courteous; adhering to the norms of polite social intercourse—not rude; 2) relating to what happens within a state or citizens (such as a civil court)
   
   Ex: After their divorce, the man and woman did not like being together, but they were **civil** when they had to be.
   
   [civility – noun]
8. **base** (adj.) – 1) lacking morals, dishonorable, selfish; 2) of little or no value or quality; worthless. 
   **(note this word can also be a noun or verb with a whole bunch of other definitions but we’ll just focus on the adjective form as that’s how it’s used in the play in Act II. “Woman, am I so base? Do you truly think me base?” John Proctor asks his wife.)**
   Ex: The thief was so base that he even stole the family’s dog and sold it for money. 
   [baseness – noun]

9. **deference** (noun) [DEF-er-uhns] – 1) polite respect, especially putting another person’s interests first; 2) submission to the judgment, opinion, or wishes of another person (the word is often used with these prepositions: Out of deference to, In deference to, With deference to)
   Ex: In deference to the wishes of my dad, I will eat the meatloaf casserole he made, even though it tastes terrible.
   Ex: Because he survived an attack from Voldemort, Harry is shown extreme deference by other wizards.
   [deferential or deferent – adj.]

10. **pious** (adj.) [PIE-uhs] – 1) devoutly religious; 2) holy or sacred; 3) acting in a falsely, hypocritically moralizing way
    Ex: Mother Theresa was a pious individual because she was committed to her faith.
    [piousness – noun; piously – adv.]

11. **daft** (adj.) – 1) senseless, stupid, or foolish; 2) insane or crazy
    Ex: Henry’s plan to impress Maria by eating a dung beetle was a daft one.
    [daftness – noun; daftly – adv.]

12. **gingerly** (adv.) [JIN-jer-lee] - doing something in a very cautious or tentative way
    Ex: He placed the glass jar gingerly on the concrete step.
    [gingerliness – noun]

**Words used in the Puritan era we no longer use or use differently**

Aye - yes
draught – a large and hurried swallow of a drink
poppet – a doll sewn out of fabric
trafficked – to deal with or make an exchange with
quail – to lose heart or courage; to shrink with fear
1) **forbidding** *(adj.)* [fer-BID-ing] – 1) grim; unfriendly; hostile; sinister; 2) dangerous or threatening
   
   *Ex: his *forbidding* scowl; the *forbidding* clouds*
   
   [forbiddingly – *adv.*]

2) **contentious** *(adj.)* [kun-TEN-shus] – likely to create or cause argument or strife; quarrelsome
   
   *Ex: the *contentious* child; the *contentious* topic*
   
   [content - *verb*; contentiousness – *noun*; contentiously – *adv.*]

3) **probity** *(noun)* [PROH-bi-tee] – honesty; integrity and uprightness
   
   *Ex: If I let you copy my homework, I would sacrifice my *probity*.*

4) **prodigious** *(adj.)* [pruh-DIJ-uhs] – extraordinary in size, amount, extent, degree, force, etc
   
   *Ex: a *prodigious* storm; a *prodigious* donation to a charity*
   
   [prodigiously – *adv.*]

5) **reproach** *(verb)* [ri-PROHCH] - to find fault with (a person, group, etc.); blame; censure
   
   *Ex: The President reproached the general for...*
   
   [reproachful *(adj.*) – expressing reproach (as in, a *reproachful* look); reproachable *(adj.*) – worthy of reproach (as in, a *reproachable* action)] You will often hear someone say, “*His character is beyond reproach*”—meaning you can’t find fault with his character.

6) **effrontery** *(noun)* [i-FRUN-tuh-ree] – behavior or an attitude that is so shamelessly bold that it’s insulting
   
   *Ex: She had the *effrontery* to ask for two free samples. (OR when someone says, “I can’t believe she had the nerve to do that!” They are talking about the person’s *effrontery.*)

7) **immaculate** *(adj.)* [i-MAK-yuh-lit] – 1) free from spot or stain; spotlessly clean. 2) free from moral blemish or impurity; pure
   
   *Ex: an *immaculate* sheet; an *immaculate* record*
   
   [immaculately – *adv.*]

8) **qualm** *(noun)* [KWAHM] – 1) an uneasy feeling about the rightness of an action or conduct; 2) a sudden feeling of apprehension, uneasiness, or sickness
   
   *Ex: He has no *qualms* about lying. *Qualms* of homesickness.*
9) guile (noun) [GAHYL] – treacherous cunning or cleverness in attaining a goal; crafty or artful deception

   Ex: Abigail used guile to get what she wanted: her stallion-man.
   [beguile (verb) – to trick or deceive]

10) incredulous (adj) [in-KREJ-uh-lus] – skeptical; disbelieving

   Ex: Davey is incredulous of stories about flying stories.
   John gave Amy an incredulous stare when she announced that she was pregnant.
   [incredulity – noun]

11) lechery (noun) [LETCH-uh-ree] – unrestrained or excessive indulgence of sexual desire or lustful behavior

   Ex: Proctor is guilty of lechery.
   [lecherous – adj.; lecher (noun) – one who commits lechery]

12) ipso facto (adverb) [IP-soh FAK-toh] – (LATIN) by that very fact or act; as an inevitable result; a direct consequence

   Ex: If we stand by and do nothing when someone bullies another student, we become, ipso facto, equally guilty of cruelty.

Legal terms used in Act III

   Affidavit (noun) – a written declaration upon oath made before an authorized official
   Deposition (noun) – a statement under oath, taken down in writing, to be used in court in place of the spoken testimony of the witness
   Perjury (noun) - the deliberate giving of false, misleading, or incomplete testimony under oath
1) gaunt (adj.) [GAWNT] – extremely thin and bony; haggard and drawn, as from great hunger, weariness, or torture; emaciated
   Ex: the prisoner’s gaunt frame
   [gauntness – noun; gauntly – adv.]

2) embodiment (noun) [em-BOD-ee-muh nt] – a person, being, or tangible thing that expresses an abstract idea, spirit, or principle
   Ex: For many people, their country’s flag is an embodiment of patriotism and history.
   [embODY – verb]

3) flounder (verb) [FLOUN-der] – 1) to struggle with stumbling or plunging movements (usually followed by about, along, on, through, etc.); 2) to struggle clumsily or helplessly
   Ex: He saw the child floundering about in the water.
   [floundering – adj.; flounderingly – adv.]

4) reprieve [ri-PREEV] – (noun) 1) a rest from impending punishment, as from execution of a sentence of death; 2) any rest or temporary relief. (verb) 1) to delay the impending punishment or sentence of a condemned person; 2) to bring relief to
   Ex: The governor has reprieved the execution of the death-row inmate because new evidence has come to light. I need a reprieve from all this homework.
   [reprievable – adj.]

5) adamant (adj.) [AD-uh-munt] – stubbornly unyielding in attitude or opinion in spite of all appeals, urgings, etc.
   Ex: My grandfather is adamant that he must eat tapioca pudding at every meal.
   [adamancy – noun; adamantly – adv.]

6) cleave (verb) [KLEEVE] – to adhere closely to; stick to; cling to; to remain faithful to (usually followed by to)
   Ex: to cleave to one's principles in spite of persecution.

7) quail (verb) [KWAYL] – to lose heart or courage in difficulty or danger; shrink with fear
   Ex: Don’t quail in the face of adversity.

8) calamity (noun) [kuh-LAM-i-tee] – 1) a great misfortune or disaster, as a flood or serious injury; 2) serious or significant distress; adversity; misery
   Ex: Ike was a calamity for Galveston. The calamity of war
   [calamitous – adj.]
9) **conciliatory** (adj.) [kun-SIL-ee-uh-tohr-ee] – attempting to reconcile with someone; trying to overcome the distrust, hostility, or anger of someone; willing to regain someone’s friendship or goodwill

   *Ex:* In order to get out of “the doghouse”, Jake brought his wife a **conciliatory** bouquet of flowers.

   [conciliate – verb; conciliation – noun]

10) **purge** (verb) [PURJ] – 1) to rid of whatever is impure or undesirable; cleanse; purify; 2) to rid, clear, or free (usually followed by of or from)

   *Ex:* to **purge** a political party of disloyal members.

   [a purging – noun]

11) **frantic** (adj.) [FRAN-tik] – desperate or wild with excitement, passion, fear, pain, etc.; frenzied

   *Ex:* **frantic** with worry. He made a **frantic** last-minute decision.

   [frantically – adv.; franticness – noun]

12) **merely** (adv.) [MEER-lee] – only as specified and nothing more; simply

   *Ex:* It’s **merely** a flesh wound. I was **merely** asking.

   [mere – adj.]

Other words used in Act IV you may not be familiar with:

   - **Gibbet** (noun) – a gallows with a projecting arm at the top, from which the bodies of criminals were formerly hung in chains and left suspended after execution
   - **Excommunication** (noun) – the act of excluding or expelling one from membership or participation in any group, association, etc. especially the Church
   - **Penitence** (noun) - regret for one's wrongdoing or sinning; contrition; repentance