

HIGH SCHOOL | BLUE VALLEY DISTRICT NOVEL RATIONALE

## ***The Crucible* by Arthur Miller**

### **English Language Arts, 11th Grade**

#### WHAT'S THE STORY?

The Crucible, a play by Arthur Miller, is a slightly fictionalized version of the Salem Witchcraft Trials which took place in Salem, Massachusetts, in 1692. The play pits John Proctor, a respected Salem farmer, against the charges of an irresponsible teenager, Abigail Williams, with whom he has committed adultery. The conflict is intensified by the viewpoint of the judges of the Puritan theocratic government.

#### CONNECTIONS TO CURRICULUM\*

*The following are some, but not all, of the connections to curriculum for this novel.*

- **Unit 1: Language and Perspective**
  - Essential Questions: “How do texts reflect society both historically and linguistically?” and “How can crafting your story reflect personal identity?”
- **Unit 3: Universal Human Experience**
  - Essential Questions: “How does sustained inquiry of the past inform and motivate change?” and “How do we prepare for an uncertain future?”

#### KEY STANDARDS ADDRESSED

- Analyze the impact of the author’s choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a story or drama. RL.11.3
- Analyze multiple interpretations of a story, drama, or poem, evaluating how each version interprets the source text. RL.11.7
- Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grades 11–12 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies. RL.11.11
- Determine two or more themes or central ideas of a text and analyze their development, including how they interact and build on one another to produce a complex account; provide an objective summary of the text. RL.11.2
- Analyze a case in which grasping a point of view requires distinguishing what is directly stated in a text from what is really meant. RL.11.6
- Demonstrate knowledge of foundational works of American and world literature, including how two or more texts from the same period treat similar themes or topics. RL.11.9
- Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading. RL.11.10

Updated Spring 2021

*\*based on BV School District Curriculum adopted Fall 2020*