



Conflict and The Crucible

How does Arthur Miller present conflict within *The Crucible*?

“”

Conflict appears within *The Crucible* in a variety of forms. The major conflict appears between the community and the individual. The community is founded upon traditional principles and a genuine fear of the devil. However, individual freedom is suppressed along with the possibility of possible change.

Side Caption Box: Lady Macbeth uses strong metaphors in her soliloquy that demonstrate the cruel power of her ambition.

Tasks

1) Storming

Write the example essay question in the centre of a new page.

Create a spider diagram that describes key moments in the text that contain the theme of conflict.

2) Selecting Quotations

Select quotations that provide evidence for the following topic sentences.

- The community of Salem finds itself in a conflict between its old principles and new ideals.
- John Proctor finds himself with an internal conflict between saving his life and saving his honour.
- Mary Warren finds herself in a personal moral conflict between saving her own life and confessing to her false accusations within the court.
- Old conflicts drive characters to settle old scores.

3) Analysing Language

In relation to the question, analyse the use of linguistic features and literary devices within the following quotations.

- ‘PROCTOR: God in Heaven, what is John Proctor, what is John Proctor?’ (Act 4)
- ‘PARRIS: Cast the Devil out! Look him in the face! Trample him! We’ll save you, Mary, only stand fast against him and - ’ (Act 3)
- ‘It is still impossible for man to organise his social life without repressions, and the balance has yet to be struck between order and freedom.’ (Act 1)
- ‘PROCTOR: You cannot command Mr. Parris. We vote by name in this society, not by acreage.’ (Act 1)
- ‘PROCTOR: I see now your spirit twists around the single error of my life, and I will never tear it free!’ (Act 2)

4) Extended Answer

Using your own points and quotations, write 2 paragraphs that analyse the presentation of conflict within *The Crucible*.