

## English 10 Honors: American Literature

### *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller (**English 10 Honors ONLY**)

Your assignment is to read the play and be prepared on the first day to write a letter in which you describe one of the main characters. Specifically, you have a choice of one of the following letters:

1. You are Reverend Parris. Write a letter to Danforth to discredit John Proctor.
2. You are John Proctor. Write a letter to Danforth to explain why he should not place too much faith in Reverend Parris' opinions and accusations.
3. You are John Proctor. Write a letter to Danforth to discredit Abigail.
4. You are Judge Hathorne. Write a letter to the governor describing Danforth and his handling of the Salem affair.
5. You are Reverend Parris. Write a letter to Danforth about Hale's participation in the Salem affair.

As you read, jot down everything you know about the character you are going to describe. Then, take notes about how the writer of the letter would feel about each point you have noted about the character. You may use these notes for your writing on the first day.

**Caution:** Students are not to use internet study guides or print study guides (such as Cliff Notes, Shmoop, and Sparknotes) to prepare for this writing assignment. To do so is considered a violation of the honor code. Plagiarism will result in an automatic zero and a referral to the Honor Committee

## Four Skinny Trees

repetition in this section

isolated  
don't fit in  
misunderstood

They are the only ones who understand me. I am the only one who understands them. Four skinny trees with skinny necks and pointy elbows like mine. Four who do not belong here but are here. Four raggedy excuses planted by the city. From our room we can hear them, but Nenny just sleeps and doesn't appreciate these things.)? Why is Nenny mentioned here?

"Four" repeated 3x  
The trees are  
• skinny  
• don't belong where they are  
• raggedy excuses put there by someone

fierce  
angry  
determined

★  
Their strength is secret. They send ferocious roots beneath the ground. They grow up and they grow down and grab the earth between their hairy toes and bite the sky with violent teeth and never quit their anger. This is how they keep. ★

Very visual!  
First and last sentence are simple and direct.  
Strong adjectives and verbs.

simile

Let one forget his reason for being, they'd all droop like tulips in a glass, each with their arms around the other. Keep, keep, keep, trees say when I sleep. They teach. — Pow!

each keeps the others strong  
repetition & rhyme

Here's the "so what"  
I can picture that wall!

When I am too sad and too skinny to keep keeping, when I am a tiny thing against so many bricks, then it is I look at trees. When there is nothing left to look at on this street. Four who grew to despise concrete. Four who reach and do not forget to reach. Four whose only reason is to be and be.

"Four" repeated 3x  
The trees  
• grow to despise concrete  
• reach  
• know their reason

Excerpt taken from *The House on Mango Street* (1983)

concrete = barriers, limits,  
all the things that box us in

The trees are a symbol to the author.