

The Crucible Dramatic Read

Act 1

Directions: While many people enjoy reading plays, playwrights intend for their audience to hear and see the performance, not merely read it. Today, in a reading group, you will perform a dramatic read – meaning that you will read the parts with emotion, as though you were acting it out.

Rules:

- a) Each group member must read.
- b) You may NOT leave your seats (get up and use props).
- c) You must capture the character's (angst, concern, worry, anger, happiness, etc.) with your own voice, BUT first you must figure out how the character is feeling (sad, angry, etc.). Then your voice must match that.
- d) I will score your group (1-10) and award bonus points to the winning group.
- e) Groups will receive about 30 minutes to prep – read the part, determine what is happening and how each character feels about the progression, match tone and voice to part, and practice lines.

Steps:

- 1) Select reading roles
- 2) Read part quietly
- 3) Answer study guide questions (as a group)
- 4) Bullet-point plot events
- 5) Determine how each character is feeling – what is going on? How does the character feel about the other characters in the scene? How does the character respond to these events and characters?
- 6) Determine how you can show these feelings through your reading (think about it like you are annotating a speech – emphasis, pause, volume, tone, etc.)
- 7) Practice your lines as a group

Act 1 Parts:

Group 1 – Accusation

Start: page 9 with Parris “What does the doctor . . .”

End: page 14 before narration “A word about . . .”

Group 2 – Confession

Start: page 15 after narration “Mr. Parris I have . . .”

End: page 21 before narration “Proctor was a farmer . . .”

Group 3 – Argument

Start: page 21 after narration “Oh! I’m just . . .”

End: page 27 end of narration “What have you done . . .”

Group 4 – Tension

Start: page 27 after narration “What have you done . . .”

End: page 34 before narration “Mr. Hale is nearing . . .”

Group 5 – Visitor

Start: page 38 after narration “Pray you, someone . . .”

End: page 45 right as Mrs. Putnam enters