

## Essay and Writing Ideas

1. Little is known about what happened to the real Abigail Williams. There has been speculation that she ended up a prostitute; others believe she moved to the West Indies. Write your theory about what has happened in Abigail's life in the twenty years since she ran away from Salem. Use creative details.
2. Write an original "lost" scene from *The Crucible*. Be sure to include where the scene would fit within the play, and write the dialogue in the style the author wrote. Besides writing the scene, include one or two paragraphs explaining why you believe this scene was necessary in the play.
3. Write a sequel to *The Crucible*. In play format, continue where the action left off in Act Four. Tie up any loose ends Miller left at the end of Act Four.
4. Add another character to *The Crucible*. Explain who this character is, why he/she is necessary, how the character influences the action of the play, and more.
5. Write a letter to a character of your choice from *The Crucible*. Ask questions, suggest alternative choices he/she could have made, etc.
6. Write a full character analysis of Abigail, John, and Elizabeth. Analyze their motivations, desires, relationships, physical and personality characteristics, etc. Then draw a picture showing what you think each person looked like.
7. You are a psychologist, and your patient is a character of your choice from *The Crucible*. He or she has come to you seeking advice. What questions would you ask your patient? What advice would you give? Compose notes and/or a tape recording of your thoughts from 5 "sessions." Also consider dream analysis and role-playing exercises. Must have at least five full-page entries, including your advice to your patient.
8. Compare/contrast the novel with the movie version of *The Crucible*. Note similarities and differences, as well as your reaction to the philosophies in both the novel and the movie. Did you like one more than the other? Why or why not? Explain.
9. Compare/contrast the novel with *The Scarlet Letter* (novel or movie). Note similarities and differences, as well as your reaction to the philosophies in both novels. Did you like one more than the other? Why or why not? Explain.
10. Write an alternate ending to the play. What would have happened if John had lived? What if Abigail had never run away? What if Elizabeth had not been pregnant? What if Abigail had confessed? What happens next? You choose from where the story changes and what happens to each character.
11. Compare and contrast the characters of Abigail and Elizabeth. Consider their personalities, motivations and relationships. What kind of character is each woman? What motivates each of them? What kind of relationship do they have with their families and the people around them? How are their views on life similar or different?
12. Analyze the character of Reverend Hale. What is his role in the prosecution and deaths during the witch-hunt? How does his role change? Is he to blame for their deaths? If so, explain. If not, who or what is responsible for the tragedy? Explain your response.
13. How does Miller use the technique of irony in *The Crucible*? Give examples from the text to support your response.
14. Conduct an interview with one of the characters from *The Crucible*. For those who died, the interview can be when the character was alive, or after his or her death. Write at least 10 questions that will give the character a chance to tell his or her story from his or her point of view. You may ask questions, challenge a situation, express a complaint or make a suggestion.
15. Write an obituary for John Proctor. Be sure to include his important life accomplishments, as well as information about how he died, and what services will be held.
16. Write a personal ad for Abigail. Be sure to give a physical description, likes/dislikes, favorites, what type of person she is looking for in a mate, etc. Include a drawing or photo of what you think Abigail looked like.