

Discussion Questions

Writing "The Crucible"

- 1 Why did Arthur Miller abandon writing his play "The Conversation of Man"?
- 2 What did Miller find in Salem, Massachusetts? What does the video say he was looking for in Salem?
- 3 Why does the video claim that writing "The Crucible" seemed urgent to Miller?
- 4 How does "The Crucible" begin?
- 5 What were Abigail and Betty afraid of and why? What happened to people accused of being witches? Why do the girls begin to accuse people of communicating with the devil?
- 6 Why is 17th century Salem the perfect metaphor for the McCarthy Era, according to the video?

"The Crucible" Reception

- 1 Why does the video call "The Crucible" an "unsettling night of theatre"?
- 2 How directly involved with the blacklist were members of the audience? How do you think this might have influenced their reception of the play?
- 3 How were people affected by being blacklisted? What were people's concerns about interacting with those who were blacklisted?
- 4 What does the video say being blacklisted robbed a person?