



The Crucible Summary, Significance, and Connection

On pages 33–36 of *The Crucible*, Miller provides some important explanatory text about the devil. Complete the first item on this worksheet immediately after reading pages 33–36. Then read the remaining items. As you continue reading the text, take notes to help you respond to them. Write responses to the remaining items after you've finished reading the play.

1. Summarize the text on pages 33–36 in one or two paragraphs.

2. Explain how this text contributes to your understanding of the rest of the play.

3. Choose a key passage from the text to support your response to item 2.

4. Explain how this text connects the play to more modern times.

Answer Key

Sample Student Response

1. Summarize the text on pages 33–36 in one or two paragraphs.

Miller provides an overview of our attraction to and use of the devil. He says that since the beginning of Christianity we thought in terms of God and the devil, good and evil, and we have believed that man is a sinner in need of saving. Sex and sin and the devil have been particularly linked. Miller points out that the divided view of good and evil is contrary to the unity of the physical sciences, where positive and negative are combined into one.

Miller also explains how the devil has been used in religious and political fights to demonize the other side, stir up suspicion, gain people's agreement, and make them surrender power. He points out that capitalists and Communists think about each other in terms of good and evil. He also says that instead of judging deeds or actions, society judges secret intent. This also makes governments become punishers for God instead of fair mediators.

RL.11-12.1 Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.

RL.11-12.2 Determine two or more themes or central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to produce a complex account; provide an objective summary of the text.

W.11-12.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

W.11-12.9 Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.