***The Crucible***

**Important Terms**

**Crucible:** Container that resists heat, or a melting pot

**Puritan:** A member of a group of English Protestants who, in the 16th and 17th centuries, advocated strict religious discipline. They live in accordance to the Protestant precepts, especially ones who regard pleasure of luxury as sinful

**Witchcraft:** The practice of black magic and sorcery in Puritan New England (the culture of Barbados in the 17th century)

**Necromancy:** “black magic” – the art of communicating with the devil

**Coven:** A group of witches who live together in a hidden enclave

**Catharsis:** The Aristotelian concept that tragedy, through evoking “pity” and “fear”, “purges” emotions

**Morality Play:** An allegorical play, which gives instruction on how to lead a virtuous life

**Irony:** Instances in which the intended meaning of a word or phrase is used opposite of what it actually means

**Paradox:** A statement, or event, contrary to what one might expect

**Allegory:** A story where people, things and happenings have another meaning, as in a fable or fairytale

**Exposition:** Provides necessary background that brings the reader in touch with aspects that inform the characterization, narrative and theme of the drama

**McCarthyism:** The politically motivated practice of making accusations of disloyalty, subversion, or treason without proper regard for evidence. The term specifically describes activities associated with the period in the United States known as the Second Red Scare, lasting roughly from the late 1940s to the late 1950s and characterized by heightened fears of communist influence on American institutions

**Theocracy:** A form of government in which a god or deity is recognized as the state’s supreme civil ruler