

The Crucible Allegory

Arthur Miller used the mass hysteria of The Salem Witch Trials to serve as an allegory for the hysteria of The Red Scare. Through this comparison the crazed and illogical persecution of colony members suspected to have betrayed the Puritan covenant with God by consorting with the Devil was used to criticize the crazed and illogical persecution of communists who were suspected to have threatened the free democracy by advocating for the rights of the minority. Argue how this allegory could be further applied to a social issue facing our nation today.

Symbols	Literal Meaning	Allegorical Meaning	Modern Extension
Word	The word witchcraft	The word communism	The word immigrant
Belief	Witchcraft was a dangerous, invisible enemy that caused people to become fearful of their neighbors and take reckless action.	Communism was a dangerous, invisible enemy that caused people to become fearful and to take reckless action.	Immigrants are dangerous, visible enemies that cause people to become fearful of a threat to national security and to take reckless action and implementation of nationwide policy.
Problem	Many in Salem believed that witchcraft was simply a superstition but The Salem Witch Trials encouraged people to accuse each other, condemn each other, and kill each other without logic or factual evidence. During the Salem Witch Trials, fear caused many people to lean away from common sense and believe accusations by those who had no evidence. Mob Hysteria.	Some Americans believed that the threat of the communist conspiracy within the United States was a mere superstition but The McCarthy hearings pitted people against each other as they were called to testify about their own loyalty to their country as well as the loyalty of others. During the McCarthy hearing fear caused many people to suspend their powers of reasoning and to believe unsupported allegations of unreliable witnesses. Mob Hysteria.	Some Americans believe in the constitutional promise of due process for all people in the country, that the hyped threat of violence, rape, job theft, and abuse of resources and terrorism was superstition but the Trump administration pitted liberal and conservative Americans against each other without logic or factual evidence. Social media and political propaganda caused social divide, irrational fears, distrust, and racially motivated violence. Mob Hysteria.
Consequence	People's reputations and lives were ruined because they were accused of being witches based on no evidence. 200+ accused, 21 dead.	Many professional and personal lives were ruined by the "hysteria" of fear and suspicion that came from McCarthy's accusations which were based on little to no evidence.	Country is divided politically, families (immigrant and non-immigrant) are being torn apart and authoritarian decision making promotes continued irrational fear and hysteria resulting in over 400,000 arrests, 68,000 people in ICE detention despite 73.6% of those not having a criminal record.

Antagonist/Accuser	Abigail, a power hungry and lustful teen who considers herself as the “Hand of God” and therefore worthy of passing judgment. She is manipulative, cunning, and narcissistic.	Senator McCarthy, an aspiring politician with a powerful desire for self-preservation. He is manipulative, cunning, and narcissistic.	President Trump uses “immigrant threat” as a political rallying cry to win presidential election and promote his own political/social/economical agenda. His is manipulative, cunning, and narcissistic.
Character/Supporters	Rev. Parris Mr. Putnam/Mrs. Putnam Judge Danforth They are opportunists who use the chaotic situation for their own advancement. They further manipulate and implicate for their own gain and truly believe themselves to be righteous.	Senator McCarthy was suspicious of American intellectuals, whom he suspected of being influenced by subversive ideas (think of these intellectuals as people who are continually learning and thinking). Senator McCarthy was accused of promoting his own career in his hunt for Communists. The HUAC bribed witnesses to implicate suspects by promising immunity and protection by those in authority.	Several politicians, entrepreneurs, evangelicals seized the opportunity to advanced their own careers directly or indirectly through the president. Trump was accused of using the issue of immigration to promote a rich, white, Christian, cisgender male elitism. ICE and Military reserves infiltrated “sanctuary cities” under the guise of national pride, national strength, and religious righteousness.
Protagonist/Accused	John Procter, a humble Christian whose belief and existence, though flawed, is righteous. He recognizes and admits his imperfection.	Arthur Miller himself, a successful writer with social influence and celebrity power though humble in his practices, and experiences.	Immigrants and relatives of immigrants with empowered voices protesting government oversteps and unconstitutional acts through ICE protests.
Character/Opposers	Rebecca Nurse Giles/Martha Corey Rev. Hale Humble Christians who defied the order of the church and heresy of the townspeople.	The Hollywood 10, 10 producers, writers, directors, and financiers who were forced to prove innocence despite careers in keeping with the American Ideal, the American Dream.	Anti-Maga liberals who join in political protests and disrupt perceived authoritarian power grabs by demanding accountability, defend the constitution, and actively involve themselves in politics through voting, running for office, or actively seeking truth.