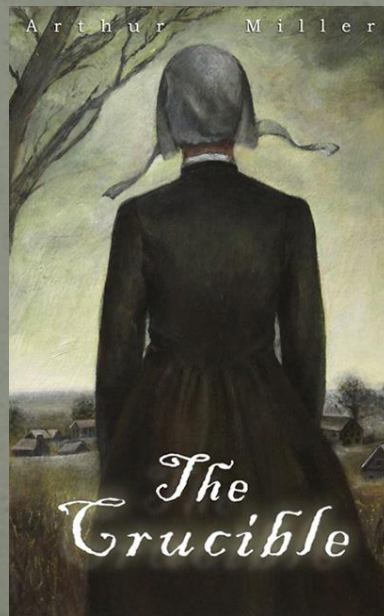


Puritan Beliefs and the Salem Witchcraft Trials



As we begin...

Under each desk is a card (do not remove them until instructed).

Do not show anyone your card!

Some cards have instructions, some do not. If your card does not have instructions, imitate a classmate.

At the end of these notes you will write down on a half sheet who you think the witch (or witches) is (are) (your top 5 picks)

Who were the Puritans?

- They wanted to reform their national church by eliminating every shred of Catholic influence
- Their attempt to “purify” the Church of England and their own lives was based on the teachings of John Calvin
- Left for the new world in 1620 to escape religious persecution and established the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

Puritan Beliefs

- **Total depravity:** “In Adam’s fall we sinned all” Humankind is totally sinful through the fall of Adam and Eve and damned for eternity.
- **Predestination:** You are “elect” (saved) or “unregenerate” (damned). Salvation belongs to the “elect”, or God’s chosen. No good works will help you become saved.
- **Limited atonement:** Christ died *only* for the “elect”.
- **Grace:** You could feel God’s grace in an intense emotional fashion. After receiving grace, you were “reborn” have thenceforth full power to do the will of God and the ability to live uprightly to the end.

Puritan Beliefs Cont.

- The Puritan community was a *theocracy*, a government which blends church and state. The church's officials were the government's officials. Thus, church and state were not separate.
- City upon a Hill Theory: That the new MA Colony would be a place of complete reform (utopia) where God would be found in scripture and a strong work ethic.
- Education: A strong belief in education was established in order to read the Word of God. The first public school was founded in 1635 and Harvard College became an icon for educating ministers.

American National Identity

What do we take away from the Puritans, Planters and Pilgrims?

- Independence, patriotism, industry, practicality, and tolerance.
- These people were the first to build upon the idea of the American Dream. The idea that a new path could be forged and goals attained.
- We inherited an emphasis on hard work, a strong sense of religion, duty to country and freedom from oppression.

What do we know about the Salem Witchcraft Trials?



How it started . . .

Betty Parris became strangely ill. She dashed about, dove under furniture, contorted in pain, and complained of fever. The cause of her symptoms may have been some combination of stress, asthma, guilt, boredom, child abuse, epilepsy, and delusional psychosis.

Talk of witchcraft increased when other playmates of Betty, including eleven-year-old Ann Putnam, seventeen-year-old Mercy Lewis, and Mary Walcott, began to exhibit similar unusual behavior.

A doctor called to examine the girls, suggested that the girls' problems might have a supernatural origin. The widespread belief that witches targeted children made the doctor's diagnosis seem increasingly likely.

-Douglas Linder

Causes of Witchcraft Hysteria in Salem

- 11. Strong belief that Satan is acting in the world.
-----"The invisible world": disease, natural catastrophes, and bad fortune
- 2. A belief that Satan actively recruits witches and wizards
-----Prior witchcraft cases
- 3. A belief that a person afflicted by witchcraft exhibits certain symptoms.
- 4. A time of troubles, making it seem likely that Satan was active.
-----Congregational strife in Salem Village
-----Frontier wars with Indians

Causes of Witchcraft Hysteria in Salem (cont.)

- 5. Stimulation of imaginations by Tituba (slave).
- 6. Teenage boredom.
- 7. Confessing "witches" adding credibility to earlier charges.
- 8. Old feuds (disputes within congregation, property disputes) between the accusers and the accused spurring charges of witchcraft.

Witch Cake

- Tituba, a slave from Barbados, makes a witch cake, drawing suspicion on herself.
- A witch cake is composed of rye meal mixed with urine from the afflicted children. It is then fed to a dog. The person is considered bewitched if the dog displays similar symptoms as the afflicted.



Spectral Evidence

“The girls contorted into grotesque poses, fell down into frozen postures, and complained of biting and pinching sensations. In a village where everyone believed that the devil was real, close at hand, and acted in the real world, the suspected affliction of the girls became an obsession.” Douglas Linder



The Trials

By the end of 1692, over 200 people were jailed and standing accused of witchcraft.



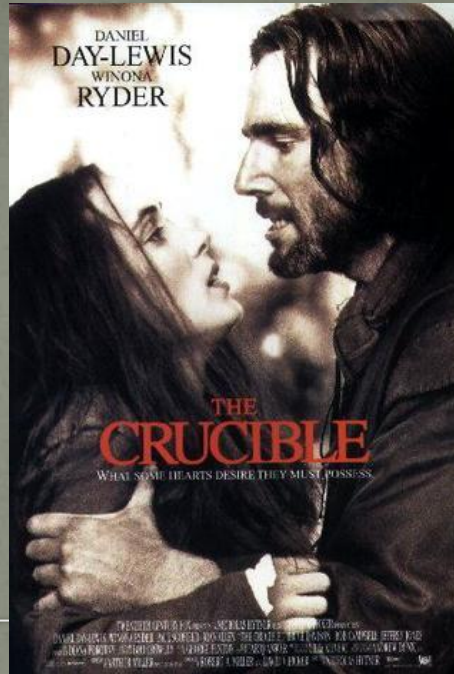
Hysteria Strikes

- Nineteen men and women were hanged, all having been convicted of witchcraft
- Another man of over eighty years was pressed to death under heavy stones for refusing to submit to a trial on witchcraft charges
- Many languished in jail for months without trials
- At least four died in prison



Why the Hysteria Ended

- 1. Doubts grow when respected citizens are convicted and executed.
 - Rebecca Nurse (jury first acquits, then told to reconsider)
 - George Burroughs (recites Lord's Prayer perfectly at hanging)
- 2. Accusations of witchcraft include the powerful and well-connected.
 - Wife of Governor Phips (and others)
- 3. The educated elite of Boston pressure Gov. Phips to exclude spectral evidence.
 - Increase Mather points out the Devil could take the shape of an innocent person: "It were better that 10 suspected witches should escape than one innocent person should be condemned."
- 4. Gov. Phips bars spectral evidence and disbands the Court



The Crucible by Arthur Miller

Setting

- We begin with a play, set in colonial America.
- Arthur Miller's drama *The Crucible* has its feet in two eras of time, Puritanical New England Salem Witch Trials of 1692 and Cold War Washington of the 1950's. Miller presents America's deepest past in order to make a modern point. He saw that, as the saying goes, "Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it."

How the play begins . . .

- Group of girls caught dancing in woods with Tituba
- Among the group is the Daughter of Rev. Parris and the daughter of Thomas and Anne Putnam
- Girls feign sickness and possession
- Both families demand that the possessors be found and punished



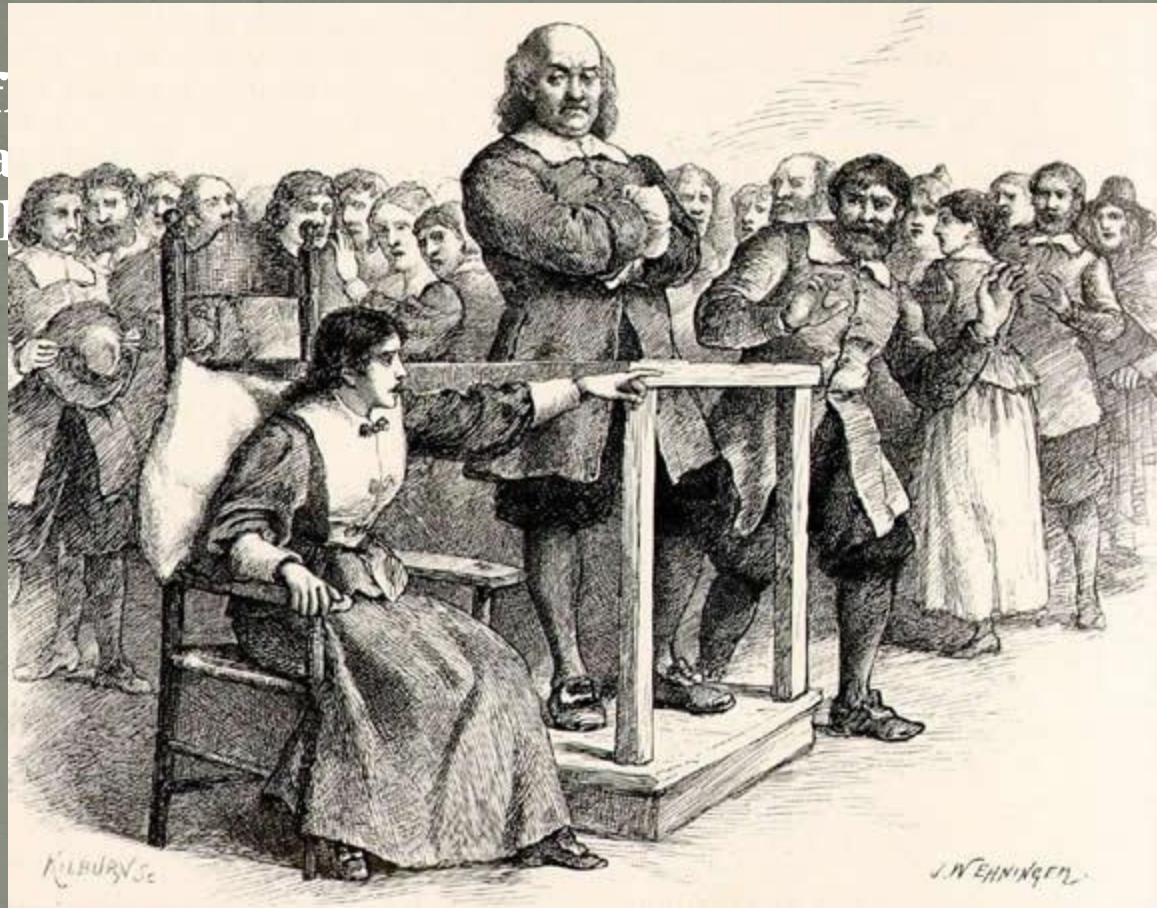
Traits of a witch...

- Singing
- Reading
- Not conforming to Puritan law
- Not getting along with your neighbor
- Spending time alone
- Writing

The Accusation Process

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through

gistrate
mes made



The Accusation Process

- The Magistrate of the accusation

for the arrest

Examen super quibusdam
These things complained this day made before
by Capt. Daniel Putnam, and Lt. Nathaniel Rogers
both of Salem Village, in behalf of the said village
for themselves and also for several of their neighbors
against Sarah Coyle the wife of Peter Coyle of
Salem Village; and Elizabeth Proctor the wife of
John Proctor of Salem. Harbors for high suspicion
of witchcraft acts of witchcraft done & committed by
them upon the bodies of Elizabeth Williams and John
Gideon both of in said towns his family of Salem Village
and Mary Whitoff daughter of one of the said said
Complainants, and John Putnam and Mary Lewis
of the family of Thomas Putnam of Salem Village
whereby great hurt and damage hath come
done to the Bodies of the said persons named
therefore caused Justice
You are therefore in their Majesties names hereby
required to apprehend and bring before us Sarah
Coyle the wife of Peter Coyle of Salem Village
and Elizabeth Proctor the wife of John Proctor
of Salem Harbors on Monday morning next
being the Eleventh day of this instant month
about Eleven of the Clock, at the public Meeting
house in the Towne, in order to their examination
Relating to the premises aforesaid and here of
You are not to fail. Willed Salem August 1692
To George Horne Marshall John Elathorne
of the County of Essex
Jonathan Corwin Justice

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If you were accused...

Flee Salem!

If you were accused...

Accuse
someone else

If you were accused...

Get pregnant

If you were accused...

Confess, even
though you're
innocent

If you were accused...

Plead innocence
and await trial

If you were accused...

Refuse to stand
trial and await the
consequences

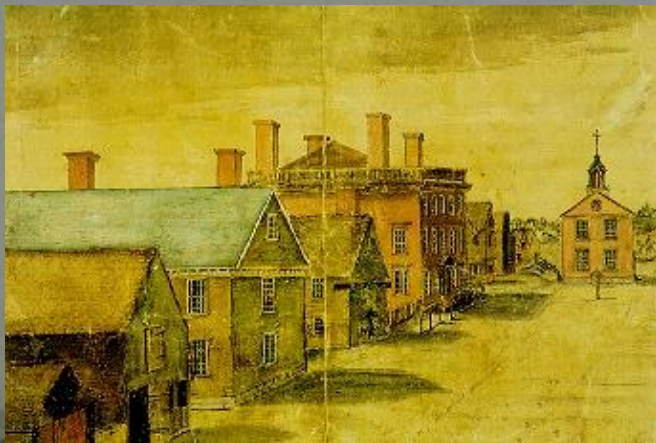
The Salem Witch Trials vs. *The Crucible*



So, What's the Truth?

THIS IS FICTION:

1. Tituba led six girls into a nearby forest to cast charms and spells, followed by a wild dancing ritual.
2. Ruth Putnam was the first girl to become afflicted.
3. The only symptom of bewitchment was that the victim could not be woken from a deep slumber.
4. John Proctor, Rebecca Nurse, and Martha Corey were all hung on the same day.



AND THIS IS FACT:

1. Tituba was asked to bake a “witchcake” in order to figure out who was afflicting Betty Parris. She was later accused of witchcraft by Betty and Abigail.
2. Betty Parris and Abigail Williams were the first to become afflicted.
3. Actual symptoms consisted of violent, physical tantrums.
4. Rebecca Nurse was hung on July 19th, John Proctor on August 19th, and finally, Martha Corey on September 22nd.

*** Tituba brought stories of voodoo and other supernatural events from Barbados. This alone compelled the girls to take part in harmless fortune-telling.

The Parris Family

THIS IS FICTION:

1. Mrs. Parris had been dead for years and the family consisted of Betty (daughter), Mr. Parris, Abigail (niece), and Tituba (slave).
2. Betty was present for the trials.
3. Mr. Parris claimed to be a graduate of Harvard.
4. Tituba was single and didn't have family as a slave. Tituba confessed quickly.



AND THIS IS FACT:

1. Mrs. Paris was alive during the incident and died in 1969, four years after the incident. The Parris family consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Parris, Betty, Thomas, and Susannah; Abigail was only "kinfolk."
2. After the trials began Betty was sent away.
3. Mr. Parris actually went to Harvard, but dropped out.
4. Tituba was actually an Indian woman who had a husband named John and a daughter named Violet. She was also tortured for a long time before she confessed.

The Proctor Family

THIS IS FICTION:

1. John Proctor is young and is a farmer.
2. Elizabeth is his only wife.
3. John Proctor only has two young sons.
4. Mary Warren was 17 in the story
5. John and Abigail committed adultery. Abigail worked for the Proctors before Mary



AND THIS IS FACT:

1. John is actually 60 and a tavern keeper.
2. Elizabeth is his third wife.
3. John has a daughter that is 15, a son that is 17, and another son that is 33 from a previous marriage.
4. Mary Warren is 20.
5. The adultery between Abigail and John is unlikely to occur as they lived far from each other and Abigail never worked for them.



The Putnams, Nurses, & Giles Corey

THIS IS FICTION:

1. Daughter is named Ruth Putnam.
2. Ruth was the only child of 8 to survive.
3. Both of the Nurses were deeply respected and revered.
4. Giles Corey was executed for refusing to reveal the name of a witness.



AND THIS IS FACT:

1. The daughter's real name is Ann, just like her mother's.
2. The Putnams had 6 living children.
3. Rebecca Nurse was considered least likely to be a witch – she was seen as saint-like.
4. The Nurses were not extremely respected because they owed money.
5. Corey was accused of witchcraft and didn't enter a plea. He was pressed with stones in an attempt to force him to plea either way, but he refused.



Witch-hunters

Matthew Hopkins

- A bloodthirsty Altofts man was responsible for the deaths of more than 300 women - according to an old legend.
- Nearly 350 years ago self-styled 'Witchfinder General' Matthew Hopkins roamed the counties of eastern England preying on elderly women.



Matthew Hopkins

- His reign of terror began in 1644 when he was employed by towns to seek out and destroy women believed to be witches.
- Such has been the interest in Matthew Hopkins crimes that in 1968 Vincent Price starred in a horror film called *The Witchfinder General*.



Matthew Hopkins

- Hopkins was commissioned by Parliament to seek out and sentence those he thought guilty of witchcraft and rewarded a handsome sum of 20 shillings per witch.
- Hopkins elevated his killings to an art form by examining his victims to obtain 'proof' that someone was actually a 'witch'.



Matthew Hopkins

- His means of extracting a confession included torture which shed no blood. One of his methods was sleep deprivation.





Matthew Hopkins

- He was convinced witches had what he termed 'familiars' who were sent to do hellish work. These 'familiars' often took the form of everyday creatures and were said to suckle on the blood of the witch by way of an extra nipple hidden on their body.



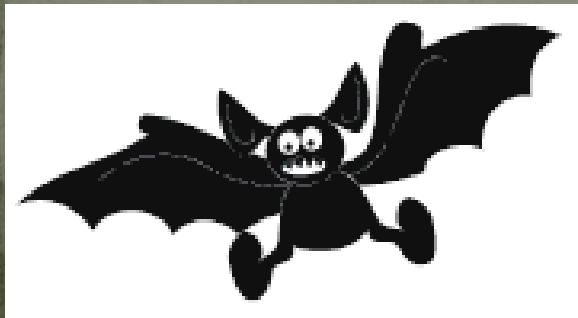
Matthew Hopkins

- Hopkins and his assistants, John Stearne and Mary Philips, would strip a suspect and dress her in a loose shift. She would be forced to sit on a stool in the middle of a room - sometimes for days and nights.



Matthew Hopkins

- At all times the suspect was watched to see if the familiar crawled out to feed on the suspect. To make sure she did not fall asleep the 'witch' was periodically walked.



Matthew Hopkins

- This watching and walking often lasted many days and nights until the suspect's feet were bloody and sore. A large number of women confessed after a few days and nights of this treatment.



Matthew Hopkins

- Hopkins also stripped his suspects naked and tied them up - right thumb to left big toe and vice versa. He then threw them into a stream. If they drowned they were declared innocent - if they stayed afloat they would be found guilty and sentenced to death.



Matthew Hopkins

- Confessing or being guilty of witchcraft usually resulted in a death sentence, either by drowning, hanging or being burned at the stake.
- In 1647 Hopkins was forced to take one of his own tests. He was bound and thrown into a river, floated and was sentenced to death.



PUNISHMENTS

*Shaming in a
Theocracy*



The following were “against God”
and therefore illegal



- Idleness
- Long Hair
- Duck Hunting
- Swearing
- Sleeping during sermons
- Skipping church
- Gossip



Stocks and Pillory

- The most common New England colonial punishment was use of the stocks and pillory.
- Stocks were heavy wooden frames with holes for ankles and/or wrists
- The pillory was similar, but allowed the accused to stand while his or hands were bound.



The Ducking Stool

- Usually used to punish women who gossiped or scolded their husbands
- The number of times a woman was to be dunked into a lake or river was determined by the judges.



Whipping



- Most whipping sentences called for 20-40 lashes
- One case on record recalls a man being whipped 117 times

More Severe Punishments



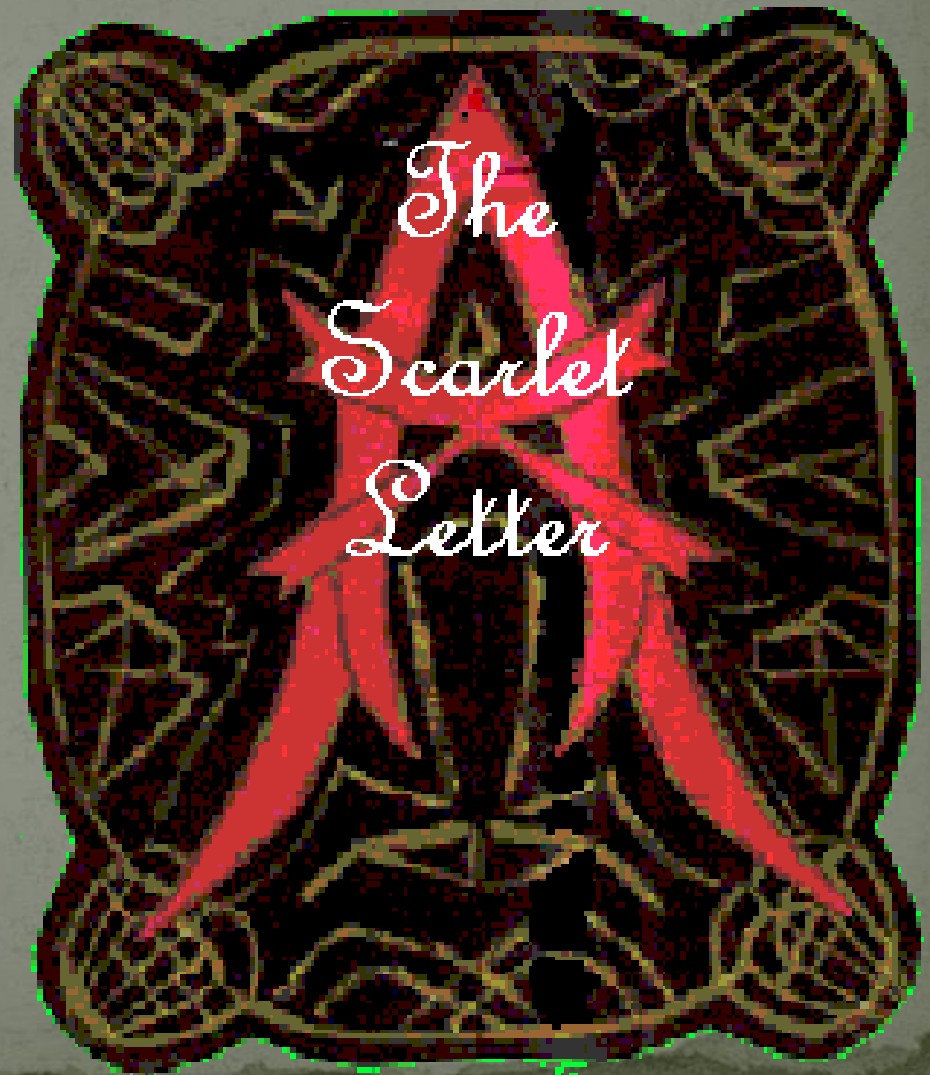
A hot awl was sometimes used to pierce the tongues of those who spoke against the Puritan faith.

Execution

The threat of execution was omnipresent in the colonies. Hanging was the most common method of execution, although burning at the stake was also used.

Public Humiliation

- Criminals were sometimes forced to wear a letter symbolizing the crime committed.
- “T” stood for thief
- “D” was worn by those accused of public drunkenness
- Of course, the “A” stood for adultery.



**THERE IS A
WITCH
AMONGST US!**

A modern witch...

- Can't sit still
- Likes to sing
- Makes animal noises
- Imitates other witches

There is a witch amongst us...

One of you is a witch!

There is a witch amongst us...

- Now that you know what a modern witch does, has anyone around you displayed these characteristics?
- Have you?

Take a moment and write
down your top 5 choices of
witches.

Just Wanted To Let You Know



I'm On To You

The End