

The Crucible
By
Arthur Miller

DIRECTIONS: After reading Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*, students will use information from the text to complete a chain of events and geometric character analysis organizer. This activity is designed to create a better understanding of the characters and the plot of *The Crucible*. Students will use the text to create a product which shows the important actions in one of the acts and shows the relationships of the characters.

Chain of Events

1. Copy the Chain of Events graphic below, but draw six boxes.
2. Make a list of at least ten of the important actions or events of your chosen act.
3. Choose the six most important actions of the act you have chosen.
4. Complete the Chain of Events by filling in the boxes. Be ready to explain your six choices to the class.

Geometric Character Analysis

By listing geometric shapes to represent characters and arranging them on paper to suggest their inter-relationships, students explore and discuss possible characterizations and conflicts.

1. Read a short story or novel with complex characters.
2. Draw several geometric figures on the board (circle, triangle, rectangle, square, blob). Explain what types of personality each shape suggests.
3. List the characters. Students choose three. Along the side of a blank piece of paper, devise a shape to represent each character, labeled with the character's name.
4. In the middle section, group the shapes, keeping in mind that the placement and size of the shapes should show the relationships of the characters to one another.
6. Differentiate each shape and arrange it on paper, placing the figures so they represent character relationship. Use arrows, dotted or jagged lines, varying shades, to better explain these relationships.
7. Finally, write about what the geometric design represents about each character. Explain color, shape, size and placement, referring to specific details from the story or novel.
8. Students write a reflection on the activity.

Chain of Events

Chain of Events is used to describe the stages of an event, the actions of character or the steps in a procedure.

Key questions: What is the first step in the procedure or initiating event? What are the next stages or steps? How does one event lead to one another? What is the final outcome?

