

Name: _____

Date: _____

Period: 4

Constructed Response: Characterization in Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*

Writing Prompt: As we read *The Crucible* we explored the traits and motivations of the stories characters. You will now use that knowledge to determine the type of character (round, flat, dynamic, or static) the following are, justify your choice (i.e. how are they that type?) and use textual evidence to support your claim. You can choose from the following list of characters (John Proctor, Abigail Williams, Reverend Samuel Parris, or Mary Warren) and use your characterization chart discussed earlier in the week. Your response to the prompt needs to be one paragraph (4-5 sentences) and needs to have the following:

- **Topic Sentence**
- **Elaboration of Topic Sentence**
- **Evidence from the Text**
- **Explanation of the Evidence**

Writing Rubric:

Requirement	Pts. Possible	Pts. Earned	Teacher Comments
Restate the Topic (Topic Sentence)			
1a. The topic sentence is written in 1 sentence.	4		
1b. The background knowledge of the prompt has been restated and clearly expresses the topic of the writing (focused thesis statement).	15		
1c. Key words from the prompt's background knowledge are used in the topic sentence.	7		
Answer the Question(s) (Elaborate on Topic Sentence)			
2a. The petition(s) of the prompt are fully addressed and answered in statement form.	10		
2b. The answers to the petitions(s) are relevant and aligned with the topic sentence.	10		
Provide Specific Details (Textual Evidence)			
3a. 1-2 relevant evidence statements are used from expectation of proof (text).	10		
3b. Evidence-based terms are used.	5		
3c. Evidence is properly cited (not plagiarized).	10		
3d. The evidence compares, contrasts, defends, proves, etc. as required in the prompt.	10		
Sum it up! (Explanation of the Evidence)			
4a. The conclusion sentence is a summary of the writing, not a restatement of the thesis statement.	3		
4b. The conclusion supports the central idea of the response.	3		
Conventions			
5a. A variety of sentence structures/types are used in the response (i.e. simple, compound, complex, compound-complex).	6		
5b. Grammar, usage, and mechanics are grade-appropriate.	7		
Totals	100		

Constructed Response Example:Characterization in Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*

Character	Type of Character	Evidence with Citation
Rebecca Nurse	<u>Round</u> & Static	Nurturer, Motherly figure: "Rebecca walks across the room to the bed. Gentleness exudes from her. Betty is quietly whimpering, eyes shut. Rebecca simply stands over the child, who gradually quiets" (24, 1). Wisdom: "A child's spirit is like a child, you can never catch it by running after it; you must stand still, and, for love, it will soon itself come back" (25, 1). Martyr

Paragraph response:

In Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*, Rebecca Nurse, a pillar in the community of Salem, Massachusetts and God-fearing Puritan woman, is a round character, a character who has more than one character trait. *Nurse, a mother and grandmother to over 20 children, is both a motherly figure and voice of reason in an era of hysteria and fear for the supernatural. For example, as Rebecca walks toward Betty while she is sick "Gentleness exudes from her...[she] simply stands over the child, who gradually quiets" (24). The stage directions above indicate that Rebecca is a motherly figure to Betty who is bed-ridden from unknown causes because it is merely her presence that relieves Betty's distress. In addition, Rebecca also represents wisdom. A few lines later, as Rebecca explains that Betty is simply pretending to be sick she says "A child's spirit is like a child, you can never catch it by running after it; you must stand still, and, for love, it will soon itself come back" (25). Here, Rebecca urges Rev. Parris to disregard witchcraft as the cause for Betty's distress and suggests that the cure is patience. Rebecca contends that Betty will soon become bored and her sickness will cease. Not only does Rebecca nurture Betty but she also sees that Betty's sickness is simply a game meant to facilitate attention, illustrating wisdom while others are hysterical thus showing that Rebecca is a round character.*

Legend:

- Topic Sentence
- *Elaboration of Topic Sentence*
- **Evidence from the Text**
- Explanation of the Evidence