

THE CRUCIBLE BY ARTHUR MILLER -VOCABULARY- ACT 2

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.11-12.4](#) Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on *grades 11–12 reading and content* choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.11-12.4](#) Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including words with multiple meanings or language that is particularly fresh, engaging, or beautiful. (Include Shakespeare as well as other authors.)

1. **condemn** – 1.) to give someone a legal sentence; 2) to judge someone as guilty; 3) to say that someone or something is bad or unacceptable; 4) to force someone to experience something unpleasant; 5) to ban the use of something

Ex: The murderer was **condemned** to life in prison.

2. **lofty** – very high or tall; 2) of high rank or character; 3) elevated and in tone or style, such as writing or speech that may use a formal, important tone; 4) acting with an arrogant or superior manner

Ex: The movie was filled with many **lofty** idea, but I just wanted to laugh and see cool effects.

3. **bewilder** – to confuse or puzzle someone

Ex: The twists and turns of the cave soon **bewildered** me.

4. **ameliorate** – to improve or make something better or more bearable

Ex: Tylenol will **ameliorate** the pain of a headache. (We typically use this when talking about something that needs improving—that's in a negative state. We wouldn't say "I **ameliorated** the chocolate sundae by adding a cherry and hot caramel sauce.)

5. **indignant** feeling angry or upset at the injustice, unfairness, or unreasonableness of something

Ex: After her brother received a new car for his birthday, Jill was **indignant** because she had only been given a card on hers.

6. **avid** – eager for or enthusiastic about something

Ex: At the end of the summer, I had no money left because I am an **avid** moviegoer and I spent all my time at the theater.

7. **civil** – polite, courteous; adhering to the norms of polite social intercourse—not rude 2) relating to what happens within a state or citizens (such as a civil court)

Ex: After their divorce, the man and woman did not like being together, but they were **civil** when they had to be

8. **base** (adj.) – 1) lacking morals, dishonorable, selfish; 2) of little or no value or quality; worthless. (note this word can also be a noun or verb with a whole bunch of other definitions but we'll just focus on the adjective form as that's how it's used in the play in Act II. "Woman, am I so **base**? Do you truly think me **base**?" John Proctor asks his wife.)

Ex: The thief was so **base** that he even stole the family's dog and sold it for money.

9. **pious** – 1) devoutly religious; 2) holy or sacred; 3) acting in a falsely, hypocritically moralizing way

Ex: Mother Theresa was a **pious** individual because she was committed to her faith.

10. **daft** – 1) senseless, stupid, or foolish; 2) insane or crazy

Ex: Henry's plan to impress Maria by eating a dung beetle was a **daft** one.

11. **gingerly** – doing something in a very cautious or tentative way

Ex: He placed the glass jar **gingerly** on the concrete step.

12. **providence** – a manifestation of God's foresightful care for his creatures

Ex: The river was a **providence** to the fisherman.

WORDS USED IN THE PURITAN ERA WE NO LONGER USE OR USE DIFFERENTLY

Aye – (eye) – yes

draught – (draft) – a large and hurried swallow of a drink

poppet – a doll sewn out of fabric

trafficked – to deal with or make an exchange with

quail – to lose heart or courage; to shrink with fear