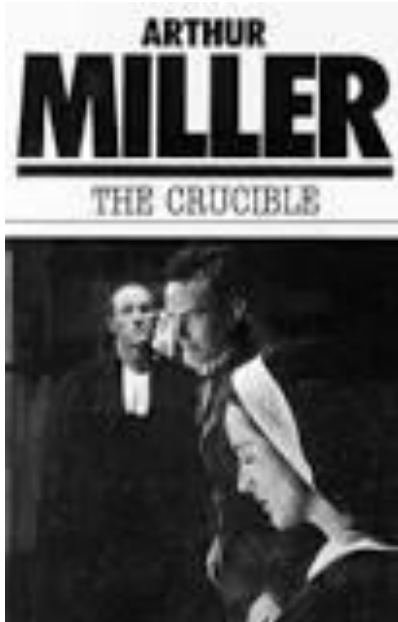


# The Crucible

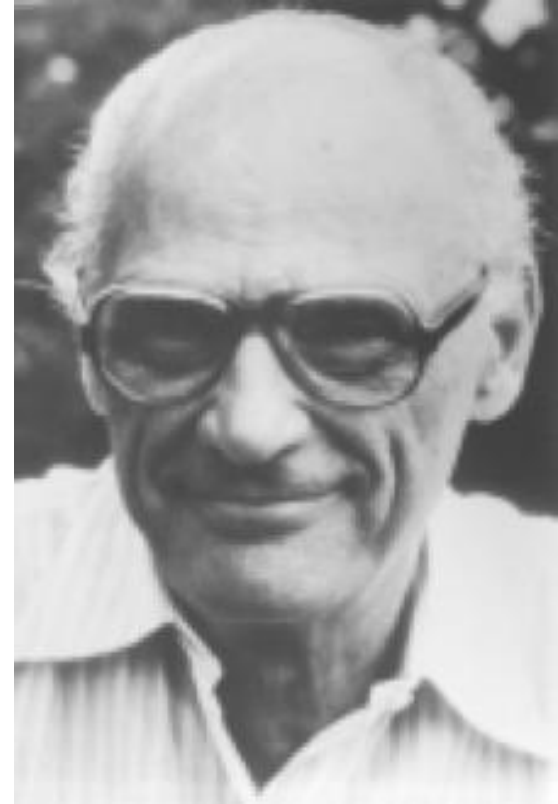
Arthur Miller



**Warm-up: Have you ever been falsely accused of something and still had to take the blame? What happened? How did you feel?**

# Arthur Miller

- He was born in NYC in 1915.
- He began writing plays when he was a student at the University of Michigan.
- He was married to Marilyn Monroe for some time.



# Why did Arthur Miller write *The Crucible*?

- The events in *The Crucible* took place in 1692 in Salem, Massachusetts.
- This was largely a Puritanical society who thanked God for everything good and blamed the devil for all things that went wrong.
- When mysterious or suspicious things started happening that could not be explained, it was easy for these people to point fingers and suspect witchcraft.
- During the time that Arthur Miller wrote this story, America was experiencing the “Red Scare”.
- Joseph McCarthy was head of a part of the government that quickly pointed fingers at many innocent Americans who were labeled “Communists”.
- People were blacklisted and excommunicated if they even knew people who were involved in Communism.

# What is an allegory?

**Allegory: work of literature that tells one story on the surface while referring to another event.**

**Comparing the play to the Red Scare**

**Can you see how these historical events are similar to those of the Salem Witch Trials?**



# What is *The Crucible* about?

- In 1692, Salem was a Puritanical society.
- Often, having too much fun or being too different could be seen as anti- religious.
- Young girls started having "fits" that doctors could not explain causing them to immediately blame the devil and witchcraft.
- Girls were blaming women, and women were blamed for bewitching young girls causing hysteria through the whole town.
- Over 200 people were accused just in Salem, and at least twenty were executed.

