*Studies in American Literature*: **The Crucible**: Final Project- Fall 2017 Semester

**Worth: A Test Grade Due: By Friday, October 20**

Your task: Create a playbill for audience members attending a performance of the play *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller. I have several real playbills that you make look at and use as models for the playbill that you create.

The following pages MUST appear in your playbill (Honors and CPA Students):

\_\_\_\_\_1. A cover- this must include: the name of the play, the play’s author, the name of the theater, and a picture that represents the play

\_\_\_\_\_2. A table of contents that lists what can be found on each of the pages contained in the playbill

(I recommend that you create this page last, after you have finished the other pages in your playbill)

\_\_\_\_\_3. A page that lists all of the cast members. Next to the name of each character- indicate which celebrity will be playing that part in this production.

(I counted 22 characters that have speaking parts in the play)

\_\_\_\_\_4. A page that includes a summary of each one of the four Acts in the play. Each summary should be at least one paragraph long and should be totally original- Do not copy/paste from an online source for this!

\_\_\_\_\_5. A Who’s Who in the Cast- Choose 4 of the celebrities you have chosen to play the roles of characters in this play. For each one- create a short acting resume for that person and include a picture.

(See the examples for your model)

\_\_\_\_\_6. An advertisement for an upcoming production of another play in this theater

\_\_\_\_\_7. A (fake) critical review of a recent performance of this play. This review should be about three-four paragraphs long and should be modeled after the review I wrote for the *Romeo and Juliet* playbill

(See back of this paper for a copy of that)

\_\_\_\_\_8. A back cover that includes an additional advertisement from a sponsor of the theater

\*Honors Students must also include these two additional pieces in their playbill:

\_\_\_\_\_9. A page devoted to a Theme of the play

Identify what the main message of this story is and write at least a paragraph in which you explain how Miller developed this theme in the play (hint: think about how the events and the characters’ actions helped to deliver this main message).

Then, for each of the Four Acts in the play, choose 1 passage that you think relates to that theme. Copy the passage exactly from the play and identify which Act it is from. Briefly explain how this particular passage relates to the theme.

\_\_\_\_\_10. A page that explains why this play is a tragedy and why John Proctor is the tragic hero

On that page, provide an answer to each of the following questions:

1. Why is *The Crucible* considered a tragedy?
2. What qualities of a tragic hero are exhibited by the character of John Proctor?
3. What is John Proctor’s tragic flaw?
4. How do John Proctor’s actions lead to his downfall?

For help in how to answer these four questions, see the handout on tragedy, the tragic hero, and tragic flaw copied from *The Bedford Glossary of Critical and Literary Terms*. You should see this handout in the back Honors section of your binder. If you do not find it there, please let me know and I will get you a copy!

Review of The Colonial Theatre Production of *Romeo and Juliet*

*By K. Merriam, theater critic for the Boston Globe*

The Colonial Theatre presentation of William Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet is a superb example of acting and directing at its finest. Once again, Andrew Brownell has gathered together a talented and professional crew of actors, actresses, designers, and stage hands and the result is a nearly flawless two hour production of one of Shakespeare’s most famous plays.

Although the story of Romeo and Juliet will be well known to most who attend a performance, Brownell has managed to make the story seem new again. Richie Dennyson turns in a fine performance as Romeo, and Angela Baines is magnificent as the somewhat naïve Juliet.

Craig Ferguson provides several laughs as the character Mercutio. Newcomer Michael Caine is effective as the raging Tybalt. The one disappointment in an otherwise brilliant show is the flat performance delivered by William B. Day as Paris.

Adriana Dragotti’s costume design is simply stunning and scenic designer Fred Williamson has transformed the Colonial Theatre playhouse stage into 1300s Verona. Viewers of the play will appreciate the marvelous detail Williamson included in the set for Friar Lawrence’s cell.

It is evident that the cast, crew, and director devoted many, many hours to creating a show that is on par with Broadway productions. Audiences will not be disappointed by this interpretation of Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet*.

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Grading Rubric CPA Students: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_/100 points =

Honors Students: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_/130 points =

\_\_\_\_\_/ 5 points 1. A cover

\_\_\_\_\_/5 points 2. A table of contents

\_\_\_\_\_/10 points 3. A page that lists all of the cast members

\_\_\_\_\_/ 20 points 4. A page that includes a summary of each one of the four Acts in the play

\_\_\_\_\_/ 20 points 5. A Who’s Who in the Cast

\_\_\_\_\_/ 5 points 6. An advertisement for an upcoming production of another play in this theater

\_\_\_\_\_/ 10 points 7. A (fake) critical review of a recent performance of this play

\_\_\_\_\_/ 5 points 8. A back cover that includes an additional advertisement from a sponsor of the theater

\_\_\_\_\_/5 points Neatness

\_\_\_\_\_/5 points Creativity

\_\_\_\_\_/10 points Use of proper English conventions (grammar, spelling, punctuation, etc.)

HONORS STUDENTS:

\_\_\_\_\_/ 10 points 9. A page devoted to a Theme of the play

\_\_\_\_\_/ 20 points 10. A page that explains why this play is a tragedy and why John Proctor is the tragic hero