**Pre reading: The Crucible.**

The following will require you to research.

The following sites may be useful but research widely.

[**https://sites.google.com/site/fzslibrary/assignments/thosepeskypuritans--thecruciblepre-readingresearch**](https://sites.google.com/site/fzslibrary/assignments/thosepeskypuritans--thecruciblepre-readingresearch)

[**http://www.salemweb.com/guide/witches.shtml**](http://www.salemweb.com/guide/witches.shtml)

[**http://www.salemweb.com/guide/witches2.shtml?f=3&i=2**](http://www.salemweb.com/guide/witches2.shtml?f=3&i=2)

[**http://www.salemweb.com/guide/witches2.shtml?f=2**](http://www.salemweb.com/guide/witches2.shtml?f=2)

**http://www.coldwar.org/articles/50s/senatorjosephmccarthy.asp**

1. Review what you know about Massachusetts in the colonial period of early American history. What religious period and political values held Massachusetts together? What is a theocracy?

2. What were the beliefs and attitudes about witches and witchcraft held by many people in the New England colonies in the late seventeenth century? What characteristics did witches supposedly manifest? How were they identified? How were they punished?

3. Salem, Massachusetts did not have a speedy system of communication with other towns, and the wilderness was not far from its borders in 1692. How did this isolation affect activities and attitudes in the town?

4. Describe the political climate of the 1950s. Why did Senator McCarthy become a powerful figure? How did he influence politics in the ‘fifties?

5. Why is it easier to relinquish responsibility for your actions when you are part of a group?

6. As you read through the play, stop occasionally to record your thoughts, reactions, and concerns in a Response Journal.

Your journal may be a separate notebook or individual sheets which you clip together and keep in a folder. Include statements about the characters–what you learn about them, how they affect you–and about the key issues and events which the play explores. Also, jot down questions you have about events and statements in the play which you do not understand. Your Response Journal will come in handy when you discuss the play in class, write a paper, or explore a related topic that interests you. Because this play contains several unusual words (e.g., diabolism) and expressions (e.g.strike hard upon me), you may want to keep a list of some of those words and their meanings in your journal.