

Witchcraft In Salem Commonlit Answers

- The Salem Witch Trials: The History Channel
1. How many thousands of people died over a period of 300 years?
40-50 thousand
 2. What does the Bible (Deuter) say about witches?
they shall not suffer a witch to live
 3. What was the punishment for witchcraft?
death
 4. What were three ways people determined if someone was a witch?
devil's mark (witches mark), swimming a witch, torture
 5. Witchcraft was considered what kind of crime?
a crime against the church and state and/or an act of treason
 6. Who was the first person accused of witchcraft in New England?
Margaret Jones of Charlestown
 7. What happened to 4 Boston children in 1687?
They were "possessed" by Goodwills (Ghosts)—she was later executed
 8. What 2 things made Puritans fearful of the devil?
Fear of Indian magic or "malevolent forces" the devil
 9. What is predestination and how did it relate to the Puritans?
It is feared that one will either go to heaven or hell at birth and people have no control over where they go. Puritans were always looking out for divine signs or clues.
 10. Why were women more likely to unite with the devil?
Because they were lonely
 11. Write one event from 1692 other than the beginning of the Salem Witch Trials.
Annoyance between the ministers, the ministers' anarchy
 12. In whose kitchen did the Salem accusations begin?
Rev. Samuel Parris
 13. What "witchcraft" does Tituba perform?
Looking at a suspended egg in a glass one will see the face of her future husband
 14. What are some of the strange things the girls begin doing?
Fainting and going into strange and abnormal ways, they had fits and pica and convulsions
 15. Who were the first three accused of witchcraft?
Tituba, Sarah Oates (a homeless lady), and Sarah Osborne (old woman who didn't attend church)
 16. What is "spectral" evidence?
Evidence that the accused appeared to the person being accused in the form of a specter—like a hint or form
 17. How do the girls react when Sarah Oates claims innocence?
Convulsive fits and convulsions—general hysterics
 18. How many people does Tituba say signed the Devil's book?
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Witchcraft in Salem CommonLit Answers: A Comprehensive Guide

Are you struggling to understand the complexities of "Witchcraft in Salem" from CommonLit? This comprehensive guide provides you with not just the answers, but a deeper understanding of the text, empowering you to confidently analyze the historical context, literary devices, and thematic implications. Forget simply finding quick answers – let's unlock the true meaning behind this powerful piece. We'll delve into character analysis, explore the historical backdrop of the Salem witch trials, and provide insightful commentary to help you ace your next assignment.

Understanding the Historical Context: The Crucible of Salem

Before we dive into specific CommonLit answers, let's establish a strong foundation. "Witchcraft in Salem" isn't just a story; it's a window into a pivotal moment in American history. Understanding the societal pressures, religious fervor, and political machinations of 17th-century Salem is crucial to comprehending the text's themes.

The Role of Religious Intolerance:

The Puritan society of Salem was characterized by strict religious beliefs and intolerance. Any deviation from these norms was viewed with suspicion, leading to accusations of witchcraft, often

fueled by personal vendettas, land disputes, or social anxieties. Understanding this religious context helps explain the irrationality and severity of the witch trials.

Societal Tensions and Accusations:

The Salem witch trials weren't simply about witchcraft; they were a manifestation of deeper societal tensions. Economic disparities, power struggles, and simmering resentments contributed to the atmosphere of fear and paranoia that fueled the accusations. Examining these underlying tensions illuminates the human drama at the heart of the story.

The Power Dynamics at Play:

Analyzing the power dynamics within Salem society is essential. Who held power, and how did that influence the accusations and trials? This analysis helps reveal the motivations behind the accusations and the ultimate consequences.

Character Analysis: Unmasking the Players in Salem

A deep understanding of the characters is key to answering CommonLit questions effectively. Let's explore some key figures and their roles in the unfolding drama:

Abigail Williams: The Catalyst of Chaos:

Abigail, a central figure, embodies ambition, manipulation, and revenge. Understanding her motivations – both personal and societal – is crucial to interpreting the events of the story. Her actions ripple throughout the narrative, driving the escalating hysteria.

Reverend Parris: Fear and Self-Preservation:

Reverend Parris's character reveals the hypocrisy and self-interest present in Salem society. His fear of losing his position and reputation fuels his actions, impacting the trajectory of the witch hunt.

John Proctor: A Man of Conscience:

John Proctor's struggle with his own flaws and his unwavering commitment to truth represent a moral compass amidst the chaos. Analyzing his internal conflicts and his eventual defiance reveals the story's core themes of integrity and justice.

Literary Devices: Deconstructing the Narrative Techniques

The author employs various literary devices to convey the story's themes and create a powerful impact on the reader. Recognizing and analyzing these techniques is essential for answering CommonLit's more challenging questions:

Symbolism: The Deeper Meanings:

The text utilizes powerful symbols, such as the forest and the crucible, to represent deeper meanings and themes related to fear, societal pressure, and the consequences of unchecked power.

Foreshadowing: Hints of the Catastrophe:

The author uses foreshadowing to hint at the tragic events to come, creating suspense and enhancing the reader's understanding of the unfolding narrative.

Irony: The Bitter Truths:

The story employs irony to highlight the stark contrast between what is expected and what actually occurs. Understanding the ironic elements reveals the author's commentary on human nature and society.

Answering CommonLit Questions Strategically

Addressing CommonLit questions requires a multi-faceted approach. Don't simply look for surface-level answers; strive to understand the underlying themes, motivations, and literary techniques employed by the author. Use textual evidence to support your responses and demonstrate your comprehension of the text. Practice analyzing different passages, focusing on keywords and phrases that provide clues to the correct answers.

Conclusion

"Witchcraft in Salem" from CommonLit offers a compelling exploration of historical events, societal pressures, and human nature. By understanding the historical context, analyzing the characters, and recognizing the author's use of literary devices, you can unlock a deeper understanding of the text and confidently answer any CommonLit questions. Remember, the key is to engage with the story critically and analytically, allowing you to not just find answers, but to truly grasp the significance of this powerful narrative.

FAQs

1. What is the main theme of "Witchcraft in Salem"? The main theme revolves around the dangers of mass hysteria, religious intolerance, and the abuse of power within a highly structured and rigid society.
2. How does Abigail Williams contribute to the Salem witch trials? Abigail's manipulative actions and false accusations fuel the hysteria, initiating and escalating the witch trials. Her self-serving motives and desire for revenge are central to the unfolding drama.

3. What role does John Proctor play in the story? John Proctor represents a moral conscience, struggling against the tide of hysteria and ultimately sacrificing himself for truth and integrity.
4. What literary devices are used in "Witchcraft in Salem"? The author employs symbolism (the forest, the crucible), foreshadowing (hints of the tragic consequences), and irony (the contrast between appearance and reality).
5. Where can I find additional resources to understand the Salem witch trials better? You can explore reputable historical websites, documentaries, and books focusing on the Salem witch trials for a more in-depth understanding of the historical context. Your school library or local library are excellent resources for further research.

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How to Explore the History of Witchcraft: A Beginner's Guide

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Introduction to Witchcraft - What is Witchcraft? - Wishbonix

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