The Crucible Vocabulary
Pages 1-16

Directions: Please use an online or paper dictionary to find a) the part of speech and b) fill in the missing words of the definition for the following vocabulary words. Do the best you can, we will go over this at the end.

1. Persecuted (______________) to have behaved toward an individual or group with______________, and treated the individual or group______________; most often because of their race, political or religious beliefs.

“For these reasons, among others, they carried about an air of innate resistance, even of persecution. Their fathers had, of course, been persecuted in England. So now they and their church found it necessary to deny any sect its freedom, lest their New Jerusalem be defiled and corrupted by wrong ways and deceitful ideas.”

location: 5, 30

2. Ideology (__________) the set of _____________ and ________________ of a group or political party; a set of ______________ that characterize a particular culture.

“It was, however, an autocracy by consent, for they were united from top to bottom by a commonly held ideology whose perpetuation as the reason and justification for all their sufferings.”

location: 6

3. Paradox (__________________) a __________________________ that reveals a__________________; it is a statement that appears to be ________________ or silly but is actually not. A paradox is often used to make someone ____________ over an idea in an innovative way.

“The Salem tragedy, which is about to begin in these pages, developed from a paradox.”

location: 7; page 7

4. Repression (_____________) the act of using ________________to ________________ someone or something; the state of being controlled by force.

“Evidently the time came in New England when the repressions of order were heavier than seemed warranted by the dangers against which the order was organized.”

location: 7

5. Vengeance (______________) the act of doing something to ____________ someone because that person did something that _________you or someone else; you want some type of ______________ in order to settle the score.

“long-held hatreds of neighbors could now be openly expressed, and vengeance taken, despite the Bible’s charitable injunctions.”
Dissemble (______________) to hide under a __________ appearance, to __________; when someone is being ______________ about the true motives.

“He is bending to kneel again when his niece, Abigail Williams, seventeen enters—a strikingly beautiful girl, an orphan, with an endless capacity for dissembling.”

Faction (noun) when there is internal __________ within an organization, a small group __________ __________ ______ itself from a larger one to form their own dissenting group.

“There is a faction that is sworn to drive me from my pulpit.”

Abomination (______________) a thing or action that is __________ and ____________, or is looked upon with disgust or horror.

“Abominations are done in the forest—“

Deference (______________) behavior meant to show ______________ for someone or __________ ______ to someone.

“He sees her, and a certain deference springs into him, although his worry remains.”

Vindictive (______________) showing a desire to ______________ someone who has ______________ or caused problems for you; to be inclined to look for ______________.

“His vindictive nature was demonstrated long before witchcraft began.”

Formidable (______________) describes something that causes ______________ and is difficult to overcome; impressively large, ____________, intense, and/or very capable.

“Goody Ann, it is a formidable sin to conjure up the dead!”

Merciless (adjective) describes someone who acts in a cruel, ____________ way.

“Enter Mercy Lewis, the Putnams’ servant, a fat, sly, merciless girl of eighteen.”