

Name:

Date:

**AUTHOR'S STYLE** → REALISM

**DIRECTIONS:** Choose the item that best fits the realist model for each situation that is described.

- Which action would you expect to find in a realist Jane Austen novel set in England in the early 1800s?
  - characters walking alongside an early version of the automobile
  - characters viewing a photographic poster on the way to the market
  - characters walking through a flock of sheep on the way to the pond
- Which line of dialogue would you expect to hear in a realist play set during Shakespeare's time?
  - "This above all: to thine own self be true."
  - "This above all: do your own thing."
  - "This above all: be a good dude."
- Which detail would you expect to find in a realist drama set in the 1970s?
  - classical music playing in a concert hall
  - disco music playing in a club
  - hip hop music playing in a club
- Which detail would you expect to find in a realist adventure story set in the fourteenth century?
  - people hiring slave ships to go to America
  - people worrying about the plague reaching their town
  - Native Americans being killed by diseases brought in by Europeans
- Which plot detail would you expect to find in a realist film set in Roman times?
  - a young woman becomes a general in the Roman army
  - a young man is forced to fight in gladiator wars
  - Roman soldiers smoking tobacco during a break in the action
- Which detail would you expect to find in a realist American comedy set in 1999?
  - a family excited about the purchase of their first color television
  - characters worrying about the Great Depression
  - characters using dial-up Internet

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## The Crucible, Act IV

Arthur Miller

In a work of literature, the author can take any number of different approaches in telling a story. In some novels, characters inhabit a fanciful, imaginative world. In *The Crucible*, on the other hand, Arthur Miller uses **realism** to tell his story, depicting everyday details of life with great accuracy.

In a realist work, the **setting** and **plot** should strike the audience as plausible and authentic. The **dialogue** should reflect **real patterns of speech**. *The Crucible* **realistically portrays life in** seventeenth-century New England.

**DIRECTIONS:** Read each of the following excerpts from "The Crucible." Then explain how each is an example of realism in the drama.

1. *A small upper bedroom in the home of REVEREND SAMUEL PARRIS, Salem, Massachusetts, in the spring of the year 1692. There is a narrow window at the left. Through its leaded panes the morning sunlight streams. A candle still burns near the bed, which is at the right. A chest, a chair, and a small table are the other furnishings. At the back a door opens on the landing of the stairway to the ground floor. The room gives off an air of clean spareness. The roof rafters are exposed, and the wood colors are raw and unmellowed.*

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2. **Sarah Good**, rising in her rags: Oh, Majesty! Comin', comin'! Tituba, he's here, His Majesty's come!  
**Herrick:** Go to the north cell; this place is wanted now. *He hangs his lantern on the wall. Tituba sits up.*  
**Tituba:** That don't look to me like His Majesty; look to me like the marshal.

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3. *Alone, Proctor walks to her, halts. It is as though they stood in a spinning world. It is beyond sorrow, above it. He reaches out his hand as though toward an embodiment not quite real, and as he touches her, a strange soft sound, half laughter, half amazement, comes from his throat. He pats her hand. She covers his hand with hers. And then, weak, he sits. Then she sits, facing him.*

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