

THE CRUCIBLE AS A POLITICAL ALLEGORY

MCCARTHYISM	SALEM WITCH TRIALS
the word Communism	the word witchcraft
Communism was a dangerous, invisible enemy that caused people to become fearful and take reckless action.	Witchcraft was a dangerous, invisible enemy that caused people to become fearful of their neighbors and take reckless action.
The McCarthy hearings pitted people against each other as they were called to testify about their own loyalty to their country as well as the loyalty of others.	The Salem Witch Trials encouraged people to testify against each other.
Many professional and personal lives were ruined by the "hysteria" of fear and suspicion that came from McCarthy's accusations which were based on little to no evidence.	People's reputations and lives were ruined because they were accused of being witches based on no evidence.
Some Americans believed that the threat of a Communist conspiracy within the United States was a mere superstition.	Many in Salem believed that witchcraft was simply a superstition.
Senator McCarthy was suspicious of American intellectuals, whom he suspected of being influenced by subversive ideas. (Think of intellectuals as people who are continually learning and thinking.)	Giles Corey was suspicious of his wife's reading because he believes people can get evil/sinful ideas from books.
During the McCarthy hearings, fear caused many people to suspend their powers of reasoning and to believe unsupported allegations of unreliable witnesses.	During the Salem Witch Trials, fear caused many people to lean away from common sense and believe accusations by those who had no evidence.
The HUAC bribed witnesses to implicate suspects by promising immunity and the protection of those in authority.	Rev. Hale bribed Tituba to confess, saying he would protect her if she confessed.
During the McCarthy hearings, the simple naming of suspected Communist sympathizers was enough to taint their reputations and lives.	During the Salem Witch Trials, all someone had to do was name a person to accuse him/her of being a witch. The accused were then considered guilty without having an opportunity to defend themselves.
During the McCarthy hearings, suspects were promised immunity from prosecution in return for naming their co-conspirators.	During the Salem Witch Trials, innocent people were convinced to confess to others being seen with the Devil, thereby saving themselves by accusing others.

Senator McCarthy was accused of promoting his own career in his hunt for Communists.	Reverend Parris is interested in furthering his career; Abigail is interested in replacing Elizabeth; Putnam is interested in gaining more land. This is why these people are quick to support the witchcraft accusations.
During the hearings, the accused had to establish that they were not “un-American.” This presumption is that one is guilty until proven innocent and undermines the judicial tradition that burden of proof rests with those who make the accusation, not with those who deny it.	During the Salem Witch Trials, people must prove their innocence; the burden of proof lies with the accused, not the accuser. For example, Proctor must prove he’s not on Satan’s side by reciting the Ten Commandments.
During the hearings, those who tried to defend the people whom McCarthy accused were themselves accused.	Those in Salem who signed the deposition stating that Martha Corey and Rebecca Nurse were good Christian women ended up being arrested.
Several people during the hearing, including Arthur Miller, refused to give any names during the HUAC hearings.	Giles Corey refused to give names and was put to death.
Senator McCarthy’s power began to decline when he launched an investigation into the U.S. Army	The trials and witch hunts began to lose credibility when respected community members were arrested (John Proctor, Rebecca Nurse, Martha Corey), and Hale backed away from the trial.
Senator McCarthy could be considered an ideologue, an official who systematically follows a particular set of beliefs. He cannot admit doubt and insisted on persevering in his cause just for the sake of consistency, even though bad results began to outweigh the good. He continued on in spite of the opposition.	Judge Danforth insists on maintaining the court’s supreme authority. He is determined to continue with the investigation in spite of the opposition and doubts of the validity to the accusations.
People who were named as Communists during the HUAC trials were often placed on a “black list” and denied the opportunity to make a living because many employers would not hire them.	People in Salem who were accused of being witches and/or confessed to practicing witchcraft were shunned by the rest of the community.
In summary, Senator McCarthy’s accusations and the HUAC hearings ruined people’s lives based on unproved evidence and guilt by association. They “forced” some people to testify. They caused people to suffer unjustly. The entire situation created fear all over the U.S.	Abigail Williams’ lies and accusations ruined people’s lives because there was never any evidence. People were forced to testify to save their lives. Many people suffered unjustly. The situation caused mass hysteria in Salem.