

**The Crucible, Act IV** by Arthur Miller  
**Vocabulary Warm-up Word Lists**

Study these words from the selection. Then, complete the activities.

## Word List A

**adamant** [AD uh muhnt] *adj.* unyielding; unrelenting

We tried to persuade Eric not to sail in gusty weather, but he was adamant.

**bellow** [BEL oh] *v.* to roar or cry out loudly

We heard several cows bellow as they returned from pasture.

**contention** [kuhn TEN shuhn] *n.* dispute; argument; rivalry

There is much contention around school about who should run for office.

**embodiment** [em BAHD ee muhnt] *n.* concrete expression of an idea or quality

On the basketball court, Teresa is the embodiment of agility and grace.

**mute** [MYOOT] *adj.* silent

When the enemy questioned the prisoners about the troops, they were mute.

**nudges** [NUJ uhz] *v.* pokes gently

If Patrick wants the dog to get up, he nudges it slightly with his foot.

**reprieve** [ree PREEV] *n.* temporary relief; postponement of a punishment

The judge refused to grant the defendant any reprieve from the prison term.

**righteous** [RYT chuhs] *adj.* just; upright; virtuous

Judges must be righteous in order to retain their good standing in the courts.

## Word List B

**beguile** [bee GYL] *v.* to trick

We tried to beguile the cat to come indoors by shaking the box of cat food.

**conciliatory** [kahn SIL ee uh tohr ee] *adj.* eager for peace or reconciliation

We would like to reconcile with Steve, so please be conciliatory.

**disputation** [dis pyoo TAY shuhn] *n.* disagreement; argument

I had hoped for a calm, quiet evening, but Sally seemed bent on disputation.

**gaunt** [GAHNT] *adj.* thin and bony

After a two-week hiking trip, they looked extremely thin, almost gaunt.

**inaudibly** [in AHD uh blee] *adv.* silently; in a way that cannot be heard

Sarah and Luke whispered almost inaudibly.

**penitence** [PEN i tens] *n.* sorrow for sin, wrong, or misdoing

In the Middle Ages, some people went on pilgrimages as penitence.

**retaliation** [ree tal ee AY shuhn] *n.* returning wrong for wrong; revenge

Mike was hurt by Joe's remark, but he did not indulge in retaliation.

**stench** [STENCH] *n.* foul smell

The dead fish had been on the dock for days, and the stench was unpleasant.