

## VOCABULARY - *The Crucible*

### Reading Assignment 2 Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Contextual Clues

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean in the space provided.

1. This is a beloved errand for him; on being called here to ascertain witchcraft he felt the pride of the specialist whose unique knowledge has at least been publicly called for.
2. Evidently we are not quite certain even now whether diabolism is holy and not to be scoffed at.
3. And it is no accident that we should be so bemused.
4. . . . he is called up and damned not only by our social antagonists but by our own side, whatever it may be.
5. I have no doubt that people *were* communing with, and even worshiping, the Devil in Salem, and if the whole truth could be known in this case, as it is in others, we should discover a regular and conventionalized propitiation of the dark spirit.
6. How could it be the Devil? Why would he choose my house to strike? We have all manner of licentious people right here in the village!
7. You cannot evade me, Abigail. Did your cousin drink any of the brew in that kettle?
8. On their ecstatic cries, the curtain falls.

## *Crucible* Reading Assignment 2 Vocabulary Continued

### Part II: Determining the Meaning

Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions. If there are words for which you cannot figure out the definition by contextual clues and by process of elimination, look them up in a dictionary.

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| ___ 11. ascertain    | A. appeasement                                      |
| ___ 12. diabolism    | B. in a state of exalted delight                    |
| ___ 13. bemused      | C. find out; detect                                 |
| ___ 14. antagonists  | D. having no regard for accepted rules or standards |
| ___ 15. propitiation | E. witchcraft; sorcery                              |
| ___ 16. licentious   | F. escape or avoid by cleverness or deceit          |
| ___ 17. evade        | G. confused   |
| ___ 18. ecstatic     | H. adversaries; opponents                           |