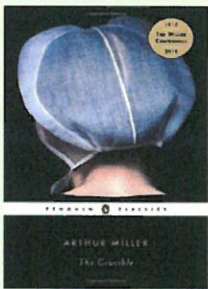


Summer Reading Choices

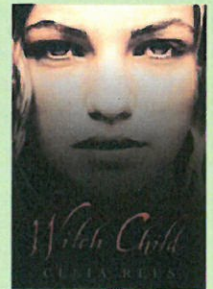
All Farm School students are asked to read one of the following books or play about the Salem Witch Trials in preparation for their first unit in Language Arts. Students should be prepared to seminar on at least one of the following works when they return to their occupations:

“Witch” Book Will You Choose?



***The Crucible* by Arthur Miller (Lexile 1320, 7-12):** In the Puritan town of Salem, Massachusetts in 1692, the town minister, Reverend Parris, discovers his daughter Betty, niece Abigail, and other girls dancing in the forest with his slave, Tituba. Betty faints in fright at being discovered and will not wake. Rumors of witchcraft spread through the town and a crowd gathers at Parris's house while Parris, nervous about his reputation, questions Abigail about what the girls were doing in the forest. Abigail says they were just dancing, though it soon comes out that Tituba was trying to conjure dead spirits.

***Witch Child* by Celia Rees (Lexile 760, 4-12 grade):** “First they ‘walked’ her, marching her up and down, up and down between them for a day and a night until she could no longer hobble, her feet all bloody and swollen. She would not confess. So they set about to prove she was a witch...” Enter the world of young Mary Newbury, a world where simply being different can cost a person her life. Hidden until now in the pages of her diary, Mary’s startling story begins in 1659, the year her beloved grandmother is hanged in the public square as a witch. Mary narrowly escapes a similar fate, only to face intolerance and new danger among the puritans in the New World. How long can she hide her true identity? Will she ever find a place where her healing powers will not be feared? Though Mary’s story takes place 350 years ago, she is a credible and engaging feminist for modern times. *Witch Child* will compel readers to ask themselves: how much have things really changed?



***Witches: The Absolutely True Tale of Disaster in Salem* by Rosalyn Schanzer (Lexile 1190, 4-8 grade):** In the little colonial town of Salem Village, Massachusetts, two girls begin to twitch, mumble, and contort their bodies into strange shapes. The doctor tried every remedy, but nothing cured the young Puritans. He grimly announced the dire diagnosis: the girls were bewitched! And then the accusations began. The riveting true story of the victims, accused witched, crooked officials, and mass hysteria that turned a mysterious illness affecting two children into a witch hunt that took over a dozen people’s lives and ruins hundreds more unfolds in chilling, novelistic detail – complete with stylized black-white-and-red scratchboard illustrations of young girls having wild fits in the courtroom, witches flying overhead, and the Devil and his servants terrorizing the Puritans – in this young adult book by an award-winning author and illustrator.

