**The Crucible Act 4 Vocabulary Exercise.**

**Denotation** is the dictionary definition of a word. **Connotation** is the feeling behind the word. For example, there is a different connotation for each of the following words: *slim* and *emaciated.* Although they both have the same technical definition, there is a different connotation associated with each. The word *slim* has a more positive connotation: in other words, we would probably assume that someone who is slim is in shape and healthy. The word *emaciated* has a negative connotation: it gives the impression that the person is unhealthy, withered, or weak.

*Directions: One the first line, write the denotation of the given vocabulary word from Act Four. On the second line,*

*write the word which has the most* ***negative*** *connotation of each of the underlined words. Finally, explain why this*

*particular word has the most negative connotation—in other words, what images come to mind when hearing this*

*word? An example has been done for you.*

**Example: agape**

*Denotation*: to stand in awe or amazement of

Word with most negative connotation: b. flabbergasted

Image: I see a boy standing with his mouth wide open, cartoon-like with his chin dropping to the floor.

1. We were astonished at the amount of homework our teacher gave us during Spring Break.
2. We were flabbergasted at the amount of homework our teacher gave us during Spring Break.
3. We were agape at the amount of homework our teacher gave us during Spring Break.
4. We were surprised at the amount of homework our teacher gave us during Spring Break.

**1. beguile**

Denotation:

Word with most negative connotation:

Image:

1. The crafty magician tried to beguile the audience with his set of tricks.
2. The crafty magician tried to deceive the audience with his set of tricks.
3. The crafty magician tried to charm the audience with his set of tricks.
4. The crafty magician tried to divert the audience with his set of tricks.

**2. cleave**

Denotation:

Word with most negative connotation:

Image:

1. Lydia made a scrapbook in order to embrace her fondest memories of high school.
2. Lydia made a scrapbook in order to cling to her fondest memories of high school.
3. Lydia made a scrapbook in order to cleave to her fondest memories of high school.
4. Lydia made a scrapbook in order to adhere to her fondest memories of high school.

**3. disputation**

Denotation:

Word with most negative connotation:

Image:

1. The boys got into a debate in the locker room after the football game.
2. The boys got into a spat in the locker room after the football game.
3. The boys got into a brawl in the locker room after the football game.
4. The boys got into a disputation in the locker room after the football game.

**4. excommunication**

Denotation:

Word with most negative connotation:

Image:

1. In response to their exclusion, many members decided to form their own branch of the church.
2. In response to their ban, many members decided to form their own branch of the church.
3. In response to their excommunication, many members decided to form their own branch of the church.
4. In response to their censure, many members decided to form their own branch of the church.

**5. gaunt**

Denotation:

Word with most negative connotation:

Image:

1. After several years battling cancer, Lacy’s aunt looked gaunt.
2. After several years battling cancer, Lacy’s aunt looked thin.
3. After several years battling cancer, Lacy’s aunt looked lean.
4. After several years battling cancer, Lacy’s aunt looked slender.

**6. indictment**

Denotation:

Word with most negative connotation:

Image:

1. Many accused witches were assumed guilty even before their arraignment.
2. Many accused witches were assumed guilty even before their indictment.
3. Many accused witches were assumed guilty even before their announcement.
4. Many accused witches were assumed guilty even before their accusation.

**7. reprieve**

Denotation:

Word with most negative connotation:

Image:

1. Pregnant women convicted of witchcraft were given a respite until their child was born.
2. Pregnant women convicted of witchcraft were given amnesty until their child was born.
3. Pregnant women convicted of witchcraft were given a reprieve until their child was born.
4. Pregnant women convicted of witchcraft were given pity until their child was born.