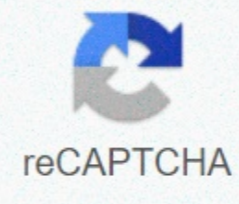




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Characters in the crucible that changed

Who are the Crucible characters? What do you do and when do they appear in the play? Find out in this overview of Arthur Miller's Crucible characters. In this article, I'll review each of the Crucible characters by name, determine in which act(s) each character appears and/or is mentioned, and briefly describe each character and what he does in The Crucible. The Crucible's central cast For starters, I'll talk about the seven crucible characters who are an integral part of the drama's plot: John Proctor, Abigail Williams, Mary Warren, Giles Corey, Rebecca Nurse, Reverend Hale and Elizabeth Proctor. For each of these characters, you'll get an overview of their relationships with other characters in the play, a brief description of their personality, and a summary of the actions they take throughout the play. John Proctor John Proctor is the central character in which the drama The Crucible revolves. This primacy is aided by the fact that he has sex with many of the other characters in the play: Proctor is the husband of Elizabeth Proctor, former lover (adulterous) of Abigail Williams, an employer of Mary Warren, a friend of Giles Corey and Francis Nurse (and by extension his wives), and not a fan (though not exactly an enemy) of Reverend Parris. Proctor is described by Miller as respected and even feared in Salem, having an acute and bitten manner with hypocrites even though he considers himself a kind of fraud (p. 19) because of his affair with Abigail Williams. Act 1: We discovered that Proctor had an affair with Abigail that says he no longer wishes to continue. Proctor is skeptical of Parris' witchcraft and persecution claims and leaves shortly after Reverend Hale arrives at Parris' house. Act 2: Elizabeth and John discuss the events that have been happening in Salem; Elizabeth encourages John to tell the court what Abigail told him about the girls who fake him, triggering a discussion about John's romance with Abigail and his continued guilt about it. Over the course of the act, Proctor is frightened of the power the girls have with their accusations, especially once their wife is arrested for witchcraft. Act 3: Proctor goes to court to fight the charges against his wife and dispute the veracity of the girls' lawsuits; he eventually ends up being accused of witchcraft. Act 4: Tormented as to whether or not to confess witchcraft to save himself, Proctor finally ends up breaking his signed confession and going to the gallows with what remains of his integrity intact. For a deeper exploration of John Proctor's character traits and actions, read our character analysis of him. Abigail Williams Abigail is reverend Parris' niece and Betty Parris' cousin. It also used to as a servant with the Proctors, before they were away by Elizabeth Proctor for having an affair with Elizabeth's husband, John. She is a friend (or at least knows Mercy Lewis) with Mercy Lewis and eventually becomes the ringleader of grieving girls (i.e., girls who accuse people of being witches). Miller describes Abigail as seventeen... a surprisingly beautiful girl, an orphan, with an infinite ability to disassemble (p. 8); in essence, he's calling her a pretty little liar. Act 1: Abigail is accused by her uncle of dancing in the forest (possibly naked) and being dirty; she vehemently denies this, but when she leaves Betty awake and accuses Abigail of drinking a potion to kill Elizabeth Proctor. Eventually, Abigail manages to get out of being punished by first accusing Tituba of forcing her to drink the potion and then appearing to confess her bewitching and accusing others of witchcraft. Act 2: We found out, first through Mary Warren and then through Ezekiel Cheever, that Abigail has accused Elizabeth Proctor of witchcraft. Act 3: Abigail is questioned about the falsification of her symptoms and denounces it as a lie; She then takes the girls on a hysterical display against Mary Warren when Mary tries to discredit them and manages to influence Maria to abandon her testimony. Act 4: We heard from your uncle, Reverend Parris, that Abigail has escaped with Mercy Lewis and some of his uncle's money. To learn more about Abigail Williams and her role in The Crucible, read our in-depth discussion of Abby and our analysis of important quotes from Abigail Williams. Me? Accuse someone of witchcraft so I could marry your husband and run away with my uncle's money when that didn't work? Why would you ever think such a thing? Mary Warren Mary Warren is a maid of John and Elizabeth Proctor and part of the group of girls accusing people of witchcraft. Described by Miller as seventeen, a submissive and naive lonely girl (p. 17), Mary is motivated both by her desire to be part of the great actions in the world (p. 20) and by her fears of getting into trouble (whether with Abigail or the Proctors). Act 1: Mary appears in the Parris house to talk to Abigail and Mercy about what's going on (since everyone was dancing in the woods the night before). Act 2: Mary arrives back at the back of the Proctors a little more confident because of her role in the court; she brings Elizabeth a poppet she made and both the News of The Proctors of what has been happening in Salem and reveals that she managed to avoid an accusation of witchcraft against Elizabeth (although it turns out that after Mary left, Elizabeth was charged again). After Elizabeth is arrested and taken, Mary is yelled at by John Proctor and tells her that she has to testify in court about how she did the put a needle in it, and gave it to Elizabeth. Act 3: Mary is harassed by John Proctor to testify that there is nothing supernatural about Salem. This ends when she is accused of sending her spirit to torment the girls; Finally, Mary accuses Proctor of being a witch and returns to the fold of accusers. Learn more about mary Warren's role in The Crucible with our character analysis of her. Giles Corey Giles Corey is the husband of Martha Corey and a friend of John Proctor and Francis Nurse. Giles is described by Miller as a crank and a nuisance, but with a deeply innocent and courageous man (p. 38). Act 1: Giles enters Parris' house to find out what's going on. He tells Reverend Hale that he thinks it is rare for his wife Martha to read all the time and that every time he reads, Giles has trouble praying (conveniently omitting information that Giles has just started going to church more regularly and therefore, of course, would have difficulty remembering his prayers). Act 2: Giles goes to the Proctors' house with Francis Nurse to report that his two wives have been arrested for witchcraft; asks Proctor for advice on what to do. Act 3: Giles irrumca in court to try to prove that his wife is not a witch. He ends up being convicted of contempt of court when he will not appoint the person who told him that Putnam's daughter accused George Jacobs of being a witch so he could buy George Jacobs' lost land. Act 4: We learn through Elizabeth Proctor that Giles was pressured to death (with stones on his chest) as he refused to respond to accusations against him in one way or another so that his property would stay in his family. For a more detailed discussion of Giles Corey and what happened to him, read our dedicated Giles Corey character analysis. Rebecca Nurse is also known as: Goody Nurse Rebecca is married to Francis Nurse. She is friendly to everyone in Salem except Ann Putnam, whose concerns about her daughter Ruth Rebecca are disappointed in Act 1. Act 1: Rebecca comes to Parris' house and tries to calm everyone down, saying they're probably just girls being girls and not anything supernatural. When it becomes clear that everyone else wants to go ahead with researching possible causes of witchcraft into girls' behavior, she leaves. Act 2: The hearing learns from Francis Nurse that Rebecca has been arrested for the murder of Ann Putnam's seven children who died in infancy. Act 3: The hearing learns through Hale that Rebecca has been convicted of witchcraft in court (p. 80). Act 4: Rebecca is saddened to learn that John is going to confess witchcraft, then lifted up when he decides not to; they both go to the gallows together. For more discussion about Rebecca Nurse's role in the play, be sure to read our full analysis of Rebecca Nurse in The Crucible The Crucible. The Reverend John Hale Reverend Hale an expert in witchcraft, witchcraft, by Reverend Parris as a precautionary measure (should Betty Parris' affliction be supernatural in nature). Described by Miller at the beginning of the work as about forty, a tight-skinned intellectual and anxious eyes, (p. 30), Hale changes throughout the work of an idealist who believes he has the power to eradicate the Devil from a disillusioned man who realizes that he has added to hysteria and caused the death of innocents. Act 1: Hale appears in response to Parris' subpoena. Excited to use his specialized skills to hunt the Devil, Hale ends up (inadvertently) pressing Tituba to confess until she names names. Act 2: Hale comes to the Proctors to check them out, as she has heard some disturbing things about them (John does not go to church often, Elizabeth was accused of being a witch that day, etc.); interrogates John about his commandments and is upset/surprised to hear that the girls might be faking their attacks and lying to the court. It seems conflicting (with a lot of pain) but he is not yet willing to fully accept how well he has ruined everything (p. 68). Act 3: Hale ineffectively tries to stop the juggernaut he has launched; he now realizes that witchcraft is not as black and white as I thought because at least some of the accusations are clearly derived from further motivations and there is no evidence besides rumors for convictions. But it's too late. Storms out after Proctor is ordered to jail by Danforth (p. 111), denouncing the court and what he is doing. Act 4: Hale has returned to Salem to try to get the accused witches to confess and save their lives so that they can feel less guilty/accumulate less blood on their hands. He's not successful. Reverend Hale, at the end of the Crucible. Statue of Reykjavik/used under CC BY 2.0/Cropped from the original. Elizabeth Proctor Elizabeth Proctor is married to John Proctor. Elizabeth doesn't like Abigail Williams, probably due to the fact that John Proctor committed adultery with Abigail. Although Miller does not give Elizabeth any specific description of the stage direction as he does with many of the other characters, we learn through several excerpts of dialogue that Elizabeth had been ill with the previous winter (p. 61). Act 2: Elizabeth tries to urge her husband to go into town to tell everyone that Abigail is a liar, first because it's the right thing to do, then because she's worried that Abigail will accuse Elizabeth of being a witch to take her place in John's life (and in bed). She is disappointed that John met with Abigail alone and somehow did not mention that detail to her, but she is not allowed to defend herself because John's internal guilt makes him react and volubly to their fears. Elizabeth accepts a poppet from Mary and tries to protect Mary from the wrath of John in which Mary has neglected her homework to go to court and accuse people of At the end of the act, Elizabeth is arrested and taken after it was revealed that Abigail called her a witch (after Mary Warren and Hale left for the day) and she has that damn puppet with a needle stuck in her. Act 3: Elizabeth is taken to court to confirm that Abigail Williams was fired from office for sleeping with John Proctor, as John has boasted that Elizabeth never lies. In a crisis of faith, Elizabeth decides to lie to protect her husband's reputation; this unfortunately ends up having a negative effect, as it undermines John's accusation that Abigail is accusing Elizabeth of being a witch to marry John. Act 4: Danforth and Hale ask Elizabeth to convince John to confess to save his life; instead, it basically just acts like a soundboard while John agonizes about what to do. She also confesses in tears that John Proctor is the best and that she should not have judged him because only he can judge himself, and tells him that what he chooses is right for her (p. 127): Do what you want. But don't let anyone be your judge. There is no higher judge under Heaven than Proctor! Forgive me, forgive me, John—I've never known such goodness in the world! He covers his face, crying. When Parris and Hale try to get Elizabeth to stop John after he has broken his confession and is on his way to hang, she does not, saying, Now she has her goodness. God forbid I take it! (p. 134). Other Salem residents in The Crucible Apart from the seven central Crucible characters mentioned above, there are also many other Salem residents appearing in this work. Whether they accuse others of being witches, accused of being witches in themselves, or simply people of the people with an axe to grind against Reverend Parris, all the characters below contribute to moving the plot action forward. The Reverend Samuel Parris Reverend Parris is the father of Betty Parris, Uncle of Abigail Williams, and Minister of Salem. He is not portrayed in a positive light in this play, being described by Miller from the beginning as someone who cut off a villainous path through history who believed he was being chased wherever he went. Through his actions and words, Parris very little good to say for him (p. 3). Act 1: Parris is concerned that Betty is sick, so he has called Dr. Griggs for medical attention and sent Reverend Hale for spiritual care. He asks Abigail about his dance in the woods with Betty and Tituba and discusses how he thinks there are people conspiring against him and his fears about how people will perceive him if witchcraft is discovered under his roof. Act 3: Still self-important and petty, Parris accuses people that he perceives as a threat or they claim that they do not believe in witchcraft to lie or have come to overthrow the court (p. 82). Act 4: Parris asks Danforth and Hathorne to him in jail to discuss the dangers that are accused of hanging respected community members like Rebecca Nurse and John Proctor. Parris explains that he and Hale have been praying with the doomed witches and waiting for them to confess; for Parris, this is because people about to hang up are influential and therefore their deaths could cause him trouble. He also mentions that Abigail has disappeared and appears to have stolen his lifelong savings, leading Danforth to call him a brainless man (p. 117). Parris also tells Danforth that he has been threatened as a result of his actions in witch trials: Tonight, when I open my door to leave my house, a dagger squeezed to the ground (p. 119), but Danforth does not seem to care. Betty Parris Betty is the ten-year-old daughter of Reverend Parris and cousin of Abigail Williams... and you don't get much more of a character description/development than that. She is the third person in Salem to accuse people of witchcraft (after Tituba and Abby). Aside from a brief time on stage in Act 3 (when she sings in uniesono with the rest of the girls accusing witches), Betty is only on stage during the opening act of the play. During Act 1, Betty falls ill after dancing in the woods with Tituba and some of the other girls in town (Abigail Williams, Mercy Lewis, Mary Warren and Ruth Putnam) When she temporarily wakes from her stupor, Betty accuses Abigail of drinking a potion to kill Goody Proctor (p. 18), before falling back into an inert state. Betty cheers again at the end of the act to talk to her own hysterical accusations of witchcraft. Tituba In her forties, Tituba is the slave of Reverend Parris who brought with her from Barbados. She is dedicated to Betty (p. 7, p. 41), but possibly harbors some resentment against Parris that comes out in his confession of witchcraft (p. 44): TITUBA, in a fury: He

