**Types of Conflict in *The Crucible***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Type of Conflict** | **Example** | **Page #** |
| Human vs. Self | Abigail – if she tells the truth, she will be in trouble. If she lies, she is guilty of hypocrisy and not being loyal.Proctor – “You’ll speak nothing of Elizabeth” John to Abigail (the guilt he feels over the affair) | Act 1p. 22 |
| Human vs. Human | John Proctor vs. Elizabeth Proctor – the tension in their relationshipMr. Putnam vs. Proctor – conflict over land ownershipElizabeth vs. Abigail – “She hates me, Uncle, she must for I would not be her slave…”/ Abigail accusing Elizabeth of witchcraftFrancis Nurse vs. Putnam – land dispute; Nurse prevented Putnam’s brother-in-law from being the minister of Salem | Beginning of Act 2p. 32p. 11/ Act 2Act 1 |
| Human vs. Society | Parris vs. The Town – Parris doesn’t want people to know about his daughter’s situation (Parris doesn’t want people to judge); Parris’ sermons are somewhat offensive and cause many people to shy away from the churchWomen vs. Society – They are being unjustly accused of being witches because society viewed them as weaker and more easily tempted (misogynistic society) Witchcraft vs. Society – The whole society is against “witches” and the society is beginning to gang up on the accusedThomas Putnam vs. Society – his wife’s brother-in-law was turned down as minister of Salem – the cause of much animosity on both sides.  | p. 16/ Act Twop. 48Act 1 and Act 2Act 1 |
| Human vs. Circumstance | The whole situation wouldn’t be as serious if it wasn’t for the circumstance (witchcraft, time period, people’s beliefs) – “What’ll we do? The village is out! I just come from the farm; the whole country’s talking witchcraft! They’ll be callin’ us witches, Abby!” – Mary WarrenReality vs. Witchcraft – The circumstance leads the doctors and other characters to believe that the reason why Betty is sick is due to witchcraft; whereas in reality, it may just be that she was startled in the forest and became ill (Due to guilt? Legitimate illness?) | Act 1Act 1 |

**Setting in *The Crucible***

|  |
| --- |
| Time:Spring of 1692 |
| Place:Salem, Massachusetts  |
| Circumstance:At this point in time the witch-hunt had begun in Salem and the people of the town believed that the devil was taking over. Women were mainly the only accused as they were weak and could be more easily taken by the devil. By accusing a neighbour of witchcraft, it was a way to get revenge on those who had done wrong, If accused, the only way to get the blame taken away from you was to start accusing others of possible high-class witchcraft.Reverend Parris’ daughter, Betty is unconscious. He is unsure as to why, but it is revealed that the slave Tituba, is a potential witch and that she caused Betty’s illness with her witchcraft. Meanwhile, John Proctor is trying to fend off Abigail, the girl that used to work for him that he had an affair with. Other women in the town start to get accused of being witches as well. Throughout this period of time, the church was in power. The bible governed the behaviour of the people of Salem (i.e. The ten commandments). Church has ultimate power **(theocracy).**Based on a true story.Written in the 1950’s during the Cold War.Women are viewed as “less” than men (women were viewed as more easily manipulated, that is why it was thought that only women could become witched).  |

**Atmosphere/ Mood in *The Crucible***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Select passages that convey the atmosphere** | **Page #** |
| Example: Reverend Parris’ home in the opening scene – Parris prays over his ‘inert’ daughter, which creates a very dark and ominous mood. Clearly there is death, or illness, at hand. | 3 |
| Proctor and Elizabeth in their home – awkward, cold mood – the affair is still an issue | Act 2 |
| Courtroom with John, Mary, Judges, Abigail, etc. – frustrating, suspenseful  | Act 3 |
| Courtroom with Judges, Proctor, Elizabeth – intense, frustrating because this is the one time Elizabeth does not tell the truth | Act 3 – end of play |

**Irony in *The Crucible***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Example** | **Evidence** | **Page #** |
| Proctor had failed to state the commandment about adultery meanwhile he recently committed adultery |  | 67 |
| “Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour” – one of the ten commandments  | Putnam vs. his neighbours (Proctor, Cecil Jacobs, etc.) | Act 1 and Act 3 |
| The girls are the ones guilty of witchcraft, but they are accusing everyone elseAbigail presents herself as an innocent child who has been victimized by witches in the community, when in reality she is the one doing the victimizing It is ironic that despite religion pervading the everyday lives of Salem, religion fails to provide an emotional outlet for the individuals and the community such as rage, vengeance and overcoming difficulties that may arise; such as, Abigail’s lust for John Proctor. Rather religion seems as though it’s a deception to hold authority against the general public.When Elizabeth lies in court about the affairParris is more concerned about his own reputation than with his own family. | “Elizabeth has never told a lie.”“My own household is discovered to be the very center of some obscene practice” | Throughout the play |

**Theme in *The Crucible***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Example** | **Evidence** | **Page #** |
| Pressure from society to conform to the same ideas and beliefs | Mary Warren | Act 3 |
| Self-Interest – The witch trials featured significant subversions of the dominant social structure by elevating to a position of power individuals whose reputation and status were otherwise lowly. Abigail an unmarried, female orphan, suddenly became the most important person in town, bringing with her a dozen other such girls who otherwise could only hope to work as housekeepers until they married. Similarly, the black slave Tituba, whose race gave her the lowest social status in Salem, found herself with the ability to decide the fates of people far more powerful than herself as she accused others of witchcraft. Conversely, individuals with sparkling reputations like Rebecca Nurse and Elizabeth Proctor were dragged through the mud and list all agency in their situations. John Proctor is the appropriate protagonist for this story especially because he falls in the center of Salem’s spectrum of reputation. As a landowner and adulterer, he is placed by Miller at the eye of the storm, watching the entire social structure pivot around him |  |  |
| Character | Physical Characteristics | Personality Traits | Connection to Other Characters |
| Reverend Parris | Mid-Forties | Self-centered. More concerned about the effects of Betty’s illness in himselfWeak, paranoid and suspiciousPower hungry | - Betty’s Father- Abigail’s Uncle- Tituba is his servant- Not liked by Proctor- Head of the Church in Salem |
| Betty | 11 years oldHas unknown illness | Betty falls mysteriously ill after Reverend Parris finds her dancing in the woods with Abigail and the other young women of Salem. She goes into hysterics when the charges of witchcraft first form, holding delusions that she can fly and exclaiming with horror when she hears the name of Jesus | - part of the group of girls who accuse others of witchcraft |
| Tituba | Mid-FortiesFrom Barbados | Intelligent – quickly discovers that he easiest way to spare herself is to admit to the charges, of witchcraft, no matter their truthSlaveAffectionate and loyal | - Practiced voo-doo/ tricks/ fortune telling with the girls - she started the accusations of witchcraft |
| Abigail | 17 years oldBeautiful | She is a malicious, vengeful girl who, in an attempt to protect herself from punishment after Reverend Parris finds them dancing, instigates the Salem witch trials and leads the charge of accusations | - had an affair with John Proctor- has a hatred for Elizabeth Proctor because of this  |
| Ann Putnam | mid-forties | Ann suspects that there is some paranormal reason for the stillborn deaths of seven of her children and blames Rebecca Nurse (after she had her daughter Ruth to get Tituba to conjure their spirits) | - Married to Thomas Putnam- Ruth Putnam is her daughter |
| Thomas Putnam | mid to late forties | A wealthy influential citizen of Salem, Putnam holds a grudge against Francis Nurse for preventing Putnam’s brother-in-law from being elected to the office of minister.He uses witch trials to increase his own wealth by accusing people of witchcraft and then buying up their land (i.e. George Jacobs) | - John Proctor dislikes Putnam because of land disputes (as do Giles Corey and Francis Nurse) |
| Mercy Lewis | 18 years oldCaught dancing naked in the woodsFat | Sly, merciless girl and a follower | - Putnams’ servant- Part of the group of girls who accuse others of witchcraft |
| Mary Warren | 17 years old | Subservient, naïve and lonelyMary is one of the girls found in the woods and is complicit in Abigail Williams’ schemesAlthough weak and tentative, she challenges the Proctors when they forbid her to go to court | -Proctors’ servant- Part of the group of girls who accuse others of witchcraft- gave Elizabeth a poppet, that led to her arrest- eventually accused Proctor after agreeing to confess |
| John Proctor | 30 years old | A farmer in SalemProctor is a sharply intelligent man who can easily detect foolishness in others and expose it, but he questions his own moral senseProtagonistChristian, yet dissatisfied with the way Rev. Parris runs the ChurchDoubts the existence of witchcraft | - married to Elizabeth Proctor- has 3 sons- had an affair with Abigail Williams- dislikes Putnam and Rev. Parris |
| Elizabeth Proctor | mid to late 20s | Reserved, slow to complain, and dutifulGentle and practical Elizabeth shares with John a similarly strict adherence to justice and moral principles. She is a woman who has great confidence in her own morality and in the ability of a person to maintain a sense of righteousness, both internal and external, even when this principle conflicts with strict Christian doctrine | - married to John- fired Abigail- accused of witchcraft by Abigail |
| Giles Corey | 83 years old | An irascible and combative old resident of Salem, Giles Corey is a comic figure in The Crucible whose fate turns tragic when he unwittingly affects his wife’s charge for witchcraft when he wonders aloud about the strange books she reads at nightFarmer | - Feuds with Putnam over land- Martha Corey is his 3rd wife |
| Rebecca Nurse | 72 years old | One of the most noble and well-respected citizens of Salem, this elderly woman is kindly and sane, suggesting that Betty’s illness is simply a product of being out too late in the cold woodsMidwifeRebecca is a wise, sensible, and upright woman, held in tremendous regard by most of the Salem community | - Ann Putnum accuses her of murdering her 7 babies- married to Francis Nurse |
| Reverend Hale | Early 40s | The intellectual, naïve witch-hunterQuestions the trials and quits the court | - signed all death certificates |
| Francis Nurse | 70s | A well-respected wealthy landowner in Salem | -husband of Rebecca Nurse-issues with the Putnams |
| Ezekiel Cheever | 30s-40s | He is a clerk of the court who serves the arrest warrants to the persons charged with witchcraft | - enemy to the accused because of his role in their arrests |
| Herrick | 30s-40s | One of the local constables who guard the jail cells whole nearly drunk | - enemy to the accused because of his role in their arrests |
| Judge Hathorne | 60s | Hathorne is the judge who presides over the Salem witch trials. He remains largely subservient to Deputy Governor Danforth, but applies the same tortured reasoning to charges of witchcraft | - holds the lives/ fate of the accused in his hands |
| Martha Corey | 60s | Upstanding member of the communityAvid reader | -married to Giles Corey- one of the accused |
| Danforth | 60s | The Deputy Governor of Massachusetts presides over the Salem witch trialsHe is a stern yet practical man more interested in preserving the dignity and stature of the court than in executing justice or behaving with any sense of fairness.He approaches the witchcraft trials with a strict adherence to rules and laws that obscure any sense of rationality, for under his legal precedence dictates an accusation of witchery automatically entails a conviction. |  |