

The Crucible – Introduction

Please complete each of the following sections in their entirety. Answer each question with **complete sentences**, as fully as you can.

Characterization (3 points each)

1. Arthur Miller makes us think in very specific ways about Reverend Parris. He writes,

At the time of these events Parris was in his middle forties. In history he cut a villainous path, and there is very little good to be said for him. He believed he was being persecuted wherever he went, despite his best efforts to win people and God to his side.

(3 Miller)

Why do you believe that Miller would want his audience to demonize Reverend Parris from the very start?

2. We learn from the beginning that Abigail has “an endless capacity for dissembling,” (9). What does Miller want us to expect from her?
3. How does Miller characterize Ann Proctor?
4. How does Miller characterize the townsfolk of Salem? Is this characterization different or similar than that of Reverend Parris?

Analysis (5 points each)

1. Miller writes that “[o]ld scores could be settled on a plane of heavenly combat between Lucifer and the Lord...” (8). What does he mean by this?
2. Abigail says “...I never knew what pretense Salem was, I never knew the lying lessons I was taught by all these Christian women and their covenanted men!” (24). What does she mean by this?