

## **The Crucible**

### character descriptions

#### **John Proctor**

Honest farmer forced to defend his wife and himself against witchcraft charges. While his wife was ill, he succumbed to temptation and was intimate with Abigail Williams, a beautiful but malevolent 17-year-old. Although Proctor later rejects Abigail and admits his wrongdoing to his wife, Abigail continues to pursue him.

#### **Elizabeth Proctor**

John Proctor's loyal and upright wife. She comes to realize that she may have been partly at fault for her husband's unfaithfulness because she was not always as warm and loving as she could have been.

#### **Rev. Samuel Parris**

Salem's current minister. A faction in his congregation is attempting to replace him. He at first attempts to silence rumors of witchcraft because his own daughter, Betty, and his niece, Abigail Williams, were involved in conjuring rites. However, he later vigorously supports the witch trials when he sees that they will work to his advantage.

#### **Betty Parris**

Daughter of the Rev. Parris. At the beginning of the play, she lies in a stupor supposedly caused by witchcraft.

#### **Abigail Williams**

Seventeen-year-old orphan whose parents were killed by Indians. She lives with her uncle, the Rev. Parris, and his daughter, Betty. In a conjuring rite in the forest, where Abigail and other girls dance wildly around a cauldron, Abigail drinks rooster blood in attempt to summon spirits to kill Elizabeth Proctor. Mrs. Proctor had fired Abigail from her job as a servant at the Proctor farm because Abigail seduced her husband.

#### **Tituba**

Slave of the Rev. Parris. The minister brought her to Salem from Barbados, where she learned occult practices. She presides at a conjuring session involving teenage and adolescent girls from Salem.

#### **Thomas & Ann Putnam**

Wealthy husband and wife who use the witchcraft frenzy implicate rivals and enemies.

#### **Rev. John Hale**

Expert in detecting spirits. Well educated, he takes pride in his knowledge of the occult, but he is fair-minded. Although he first believes townspeople may be practicing witchcraft, he later defends accused persons, in particular Mr. and Mrs. Proctor.

#### **1 Rebecca Nurse**

Charitable Salem resident whom Ann Putnam accuses of witchcraft.

#### **Mary Warren**

Eighteen-year-old servant of the Proctors who took part in the conjuring rite in the forest. She first agrees to testify against Abigail and the others. But, under pressure from her peers and the court, she renounces her testimony and sides with Abigail.

**Deputy Governor John Danforth**

Presiding judge who conducts the witchcraft hearings and trials. He admits spectral evidence (testimony of witnesses who believe they saw townspeople in the presence of the devil) but refuses to accept a deposition presented by John Proctor. The deposition, signed by Mary Warren, is intended as evidence that could lead to the exoneration of Elizabeth Proctor and others.

**John Hathorne**

Associate Judge.

**Giles Corey**

Innocent citizen accused of witchcraft after he attempts to defend his wife, Martha, and expose scheming John Putnam. A courageous 83-year-old who defies the court, he is pressed to death with heavy stones. Martha Corey is hanged.

**Mercy Lewis**

Teenage servant of the Proctors who took part in the conjuring rite in the forest.

**Susanna Walcott**

Teenager who took part in the rite in the forest.

**Sarah Good**

Poor homeless woman accused of witchcraft.

**Francis Nurse**

**Ezekiel Cheever**