

THE CRUCIBLE

CHARACTERS

Reverend Parris > The church minister of Salem.

Betty Parris > Reverend Parris' 10 year old daughter, she falls into a coma after dancing in the woods.

Abigail Williams > The 'ringleader' of the group of girls, a 17 year old servant girl who lives in Salem and sometimes works and lives in people's houses (such as the Proctors'), at other times living with her uncle Reverend Parris. She is extremely intelligent and emotionally manipulative, arguably the villain or the antagonist of the play.

Tituba > A slave woman from the Caribbean who is owned by Reverend Parris, she has a very different culture and set of beliefs (she is not Puritanical Christian like most of Salem), she takes the girls dancing in the forest and practises her own rituals which are interpreted by many as devil worship or witchcraft.

Reverend Hale > A young minister who is a supposed expert on witchcraft, he gets called into Salem to help with the situation. Later in the play, he regrets his overconfidence and his contribution to the hysteria and fear in Salem.

John Proctor > The central heroic figure of the play (tragic hero), a local farmer, generally a good, honest man with strong principles. However, he did commit a sin: he had a brief affair with Abigail when she was living in his house and working for him but stopped, she still wants to seduce him but he is dedicated to his wife.

Elizabeth Proctor > John Proctor's wife, an honest, pure woman but also a proud woman with very high standards, she stays true to Proctor and supports him despite the affair but she hates Abigail and shows her no compassion, she insists on firing her.

Mary Warren > John Proctor's servant (after Abigail is fired), a weak and nervous character that is easily manipulated and susceptible to changing her opinion.

Mercy Lewis, Susanna Walcott > Friends of Abigail who also are young girls working in Salem. They support Abigail's campaign to create hysteria through fear of witchcraft.

Francis Nurse > A farmer and landowner, wealthy and well respected - an enemy of Thomas Putnam.

Rebecca Nurse > Francis' wife, a sensible, kind and charitable woman who is well liked but she is accused of witchcraft by Ann Putnam when she speaks out against the trials.

Giles Corey > A hot tempered but honourable and just man, whose wife is hanged for witchcraft. Even when tortured, he refuses to confess to witchcraft. He's brave because he refuses to accuse others, and intelligent because he realises that Putnam is using the fear of witchcraft to try and take back property. He is accused and condemned to death.

Martha Corey > Giles' third wife, she is also accused, arrested and convicted of witchcraft.

Thomas Putnam > A wealthy man in Salem, who is manipulative and uses the paranoia of witches to gain more power - he buys the land of people who have been accused of witchcraft, fuelled by his greed he is able to acquire a large amount of the local land.

Ann Putnam > Thomas' wife, she has had 8 children, but 7 died and she is convinced that the cause is witchcraft. **Ruthy Putnam** is the only one that lives, she also falls into a coma like Betty after dancing in the woods.

Judge Danforth > The Judge of the court, the deputy governor of Massachusetts, he sees himself as an honest man whose duty it is to beat witchcraft out of the community of Salem. He is intelligent but his absolute faith in the law leads him to make errors of judgement.