# THE CRUCIBLE CHARACTER ANALYSIS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHARACTER</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION OF CHARACTER</th>
<th>MOTIVATION FOR ACTIONS</th>
<th>PERSONALITY TRAITS</th>
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| Abigail Williams| ● 17-year-old niece of Rev. Parris  
  ● had an affair with John Proctor                                                      | ● to protect herself  
  ● her desire to have John Proctor all to herself  
  ● witnessing her parents’ murder                                                                 | ● good at deceiving others  
  ● violent  
  ● untrustworthy  
  ● leader  
  ● vengeful                                                                                   |
| Betty Parris    | ● 10-year-old daughter of Rev. Parris                                                    | ● scared to get in trouble                                                                               | ● scared                                                                                        |
| Reverend Parris | ● Salem’s minister; disliked by many people in the town                                   | ● the fact that he has many enemies who want him gone from Salem  
  ● doesn’t want people to find out the truth about what happened in the woods  
  ● wants to persecute his enemies                                                                 | ● defensive  
  ● self-absorbed  
  ● nervous  
  ● paranoid                                                                                   |
| Ann Putnam      | ● mother of Ruth and seven babies who died at birth                                         | ● depression from losing seven children  
  ● desire for revenge for the death of her children                                                        | ● paranoid  
  ● crazy  
  ● depressed                                                                                   |
| Mary Warren     | ● the Proctors’ current servant                                                          | ● her fear of Mr. Proctor  
  ● her fear of Abigail and the other girls                                                                     | ● submissive and inferior  
  ● unreliable  
  ● naïve  
  ● lonely                                                                                      |
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<td>Thomas Putnam</td>
<td>● father of Ruth</td>
<td>● accused others as a way to gain their land</td>
<td>● well-to-do, hard-handed landowner</td>
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<td>● richest man in the village who can afford to buy any land forfeited by a “witch”</td>
<td>● wants to persecute his enemies</td>
<td>● used to getting his way</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>● vindictive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tituba</td>
<td>● Rev. Parris’s slave from Barbados</td>
<td>● she knows she can never win because of who she is</td>
<td>● intimidated by authority</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>● she’s smart enough to know how to save herself</td>
<td>● smart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Proctor</td>
<td>● husband to Elizabeth; had an affair with Abigail</td>
<td>● doesn’t want his secret to come out</td>
<td>● cautious</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>● his dignity</td>
<td>● reasonable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>● his desire to do what is right</td>
<td>● dignified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Proctor</td>
<td>● wife of John Proctor</td>
<td>● her faith in God</td>
<td>● practical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>● to preserve her dignity</td>
<td>● tenderhearted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>● to protect her husband</td>
<td>● reasonable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>● honest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giles Corey</td>
<td>● 83-year-old man who provides comic relief in the play</td>
<td>● to feel/look/sound important</td>
<td>● sharp</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>● to protect the innocent</td>
<td>● clever</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>● inquisitive</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>● physically strong</td>
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| Reverend Hale     | • an expert on witchcraft  
• comes to Salem to investigate possible witchcraft  
• his experience and knowledge  
• his faith in the court  
• his conscience telling his what’s the real truth | • quick to come to conclusions  
• doesn’t consider all the facts  
• practical  
• good-intentioned |                                                                       |
| Danforth          | • the deputy governor of the province  
• leads the witchcraft trials  
• maintain the court’s authority | • authoritative  
• powerful  
• intimidating |                                                                       |
| Rebecca Nurse     | • 72-year-old woman from Salem  
• her faith and her wisdom | • highly respected  
• wise  
• gentle  
• fair  
• logical |                                                                       |
| Mercy Lewis       | • 17-year-old girl  
• the Putnams’ servant  
• to protect herself and Abigail | • sly  
• merciless |                                                                       |
| Marshal Herrick   | • an authority of the court  
• his duty to the court  
• his guilty conscience | • dutiful  
• guilty conscience |                                                                       |
List the characters from the chart who were in the woods: Abigail Williams, Betty Parris, Tituba, Mary Warren, Mercy Lewis.

Divide the characters from the chart into the following two groups. Place a star by any character who later switches to the other belief.

**THOSE WHO BELIEVE WITCHCRAFT IS TO BLAME**
- Reverend Parris
- Ann Putnam
- Thomas Putnam
- Reverend Hale*
- Danforth
- Marshal Herrick*

**THOSE WHO BELIEVE THE GIRLS ARE LYING**
- John Proctor
- Rebecca Nurse
- Elizabeth Proctor
- Giles Corey

List the characters from the chart who are dead by the end of the play: John Proctor, Giles Corey, Rebecca Nurse.