

Name:
Date:

Test Thursday,
November 4th!!!

The Crucible

History of the Salem Witch Trials

- 1607 - Jamestown founded
- 1620 - Plymouth founded
- 1647 - 1st witch executed in America -
★ Also Young - Connecticut
- 1692 - Salem Witch trials (Crucible Setting)

Our
Play

*Remember we are
dealing with the Puritans
and the Witch trials.

- 150 people arrested
- 31 on trial, all sentenced
to death

- 20 are executed (Proctor, Nurse, and Corey are among them)
- 5 confess to avoid hanging
- 2 are pregnant (Elizabeth is one.)
- 2 die in jail
- 1 person escapes
- 1 (Tituba) is never given a trial, but she is never executed either.

- 1697 - Jurors apologize
- 1702 - The church apologizes
- 1711 - The state apologizes and gives everyone who was killed their rights back.

Analysis of The Crucible

→ Theme - the author's central message to the reader.

Themes from The Crucible:

- 1) Fear motivates people to go against their better judgement.
- 2) One must be committed to the higher good rather than self preservation.
- 3) There are times when one should trust his own morality and not the authority.

→ Conflict - the clash between opposing forces.

Conflicts in The Crucible:

- 1) Truth vs. Lies
- 2) Obeying vs. Rebellion
- 3) Individual vs. Crowd
- 4) Right vs. Wrong
- 5) Individual vs. Community
- 6) Self preservation vs. Sacrifice

→ Foils - characters that contrast with other characters. (Opposites)

Foils in The Crucible:

- 1) Proctor vs. Abigail
- 2) Abigail vs. Elizabeth
- 3) Proctor vs. Danforth
- 4) Giles vs. Putnam
- 5) Parris vs. Hale

There are two types of characters:

- ① static - does not change
- ② dynamic - changes

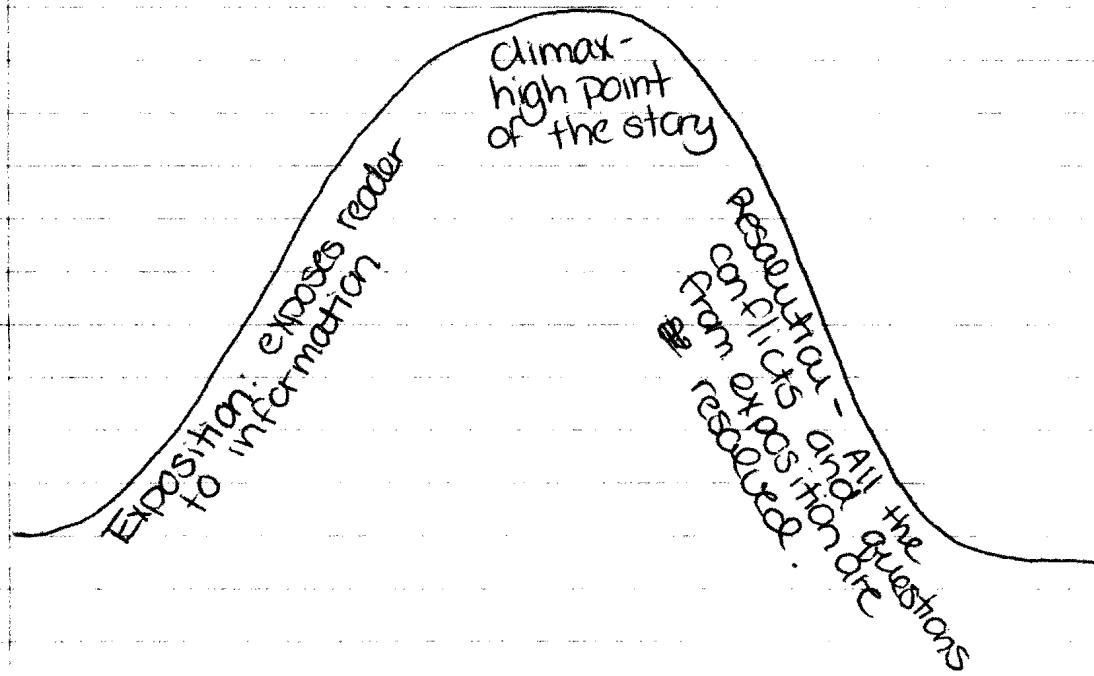
Dynamic characters in
The Crucible

Proctor
Hale

Static characters in
The Crucible

Abigail
Danforth
Parris

Plot Diagram

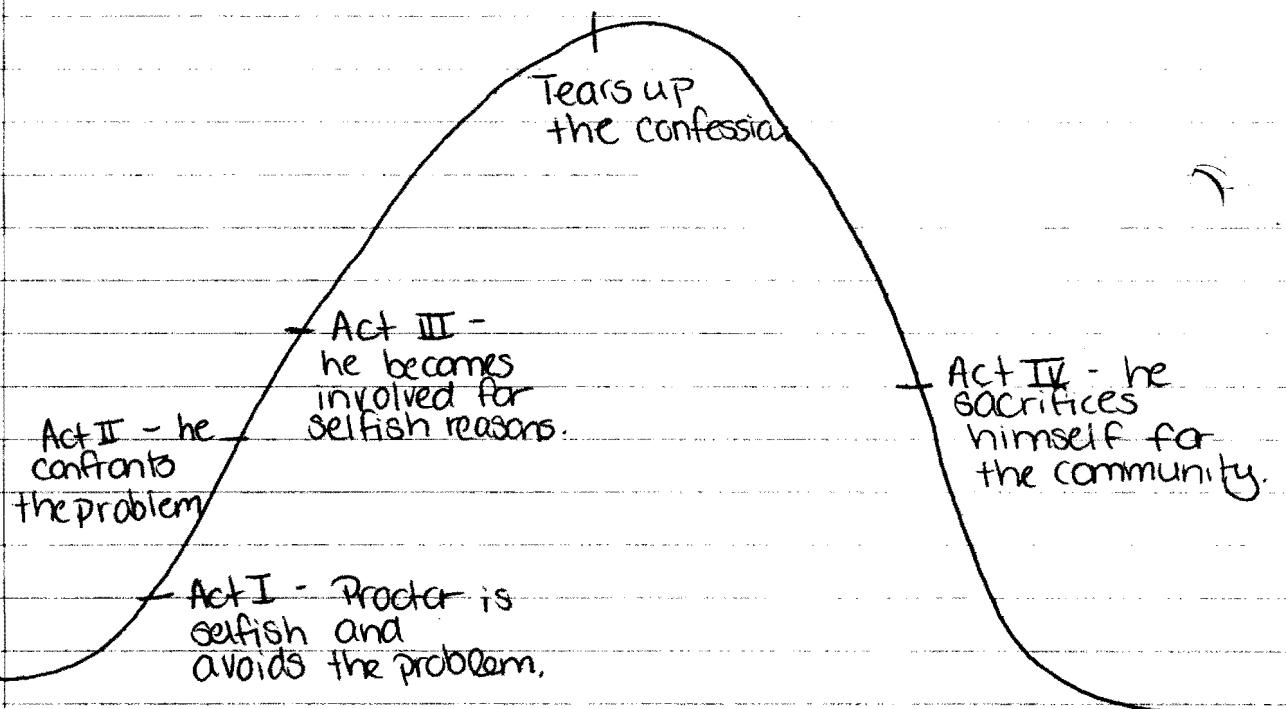


Character Analysis

John Proctor

Proctor represents the theme that one must be committed to higher good rather than self-preservation.

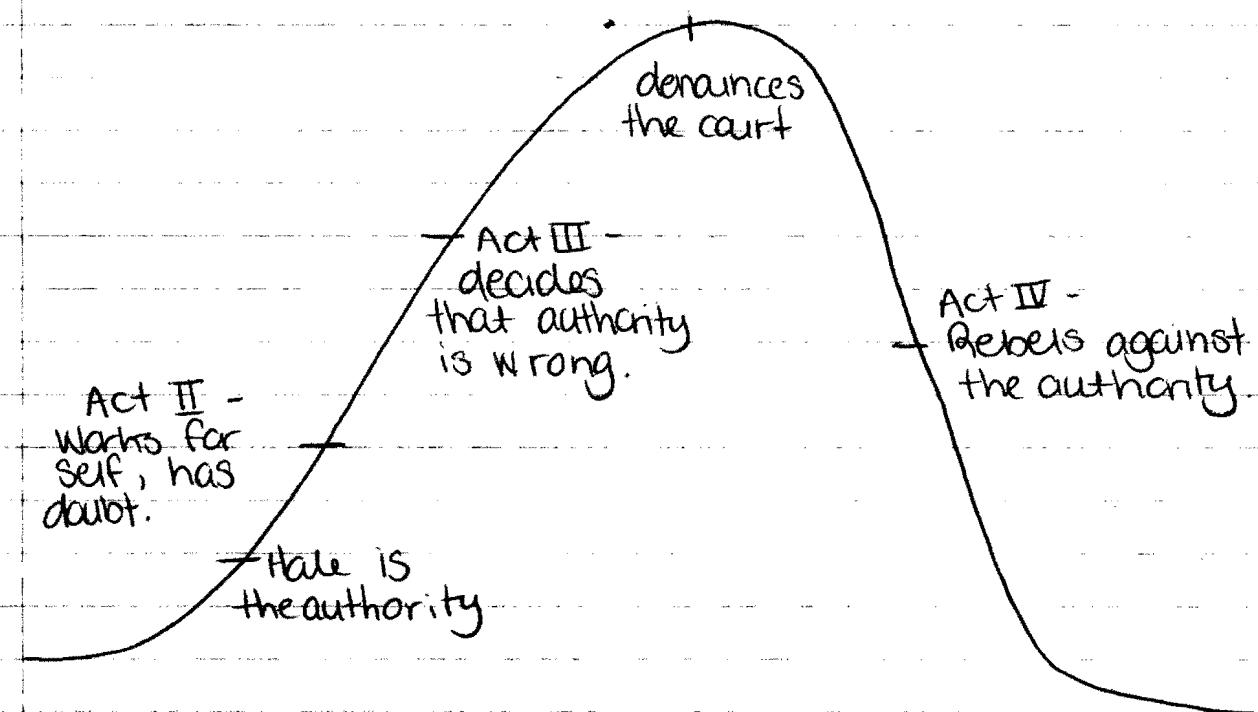
His changes show a movement from self-preservation to involved martyr. Each act shows a different stage in Proctor's development.



Reverend Hale

Hale's development as a dynamic character represents the theme about the individual's relationship with authority.

Each act shows a different development in Hale's development as well.



Analysis of the Title :

define crucible.

- ① origin - a lamp kept burning in front of a crucifix
- ② a vessel used for melting things at high heat
- ③ a severe test or trial
- ④ a place or situation where concentrated forces interact to cause change or development.

All of the definitions of crucible play into the title.

- ④ After the Witch trials, people realize that what they did was silly. People changed because they realized they were wrong.
- ③ Many people undergo a literal trial. Metaphorically, Proctor and Hale endure a test of morality.
- ② The play is about pressure and not breaking under it. It is ironic because the truth is never extracted.
- ① This definition refers to the play (lamp) which raises awareness of Proctor's sacrifice (crucifix)

Allegory - a type of extended metaphor where the people, events, and actions inside the play have meanings outside the play. * One thing in the guise of another.

The Crucible is an allegory for the Red Scare, which was a period in the 1950s when Americans were terrified of communist invasion.

↳ Fear of witches in the play = Fear of communism in America then.

Capitalism vs. Communism

private ownership as means of production.
competition drives market.

EX: USA

public ownership as means of production.
Equality replaces competition.

EX: China, N. Korea

History of Communism

Rise of communism goes back to the industrial age in the late 1800s. Capitalists got greedy. Workers had troubles. Communism appeared to answer those troubles. Instead of communism, the USA responded with unions which fought for things like fair wages, reasonable hours, etc.

In Russia, the communist revolution takes place. Corruption ensues. Stalin takes power and scares the U.S. The fear is that communism will spread to the U.S. Politicians are afraid that entertainers, educators, government officials, and union leaders are working for a communist state.

The US congress conducts investigations into the level of communism in the above fields. This is called HUAC (The House on Un-American Activities Committee). In the senate, the investigations are led by Joseph McCarthy. When people are called before the committee, accusations are enough to "prove" guilt. They are asked to name names, and refusal to do so gets you in trouble.

The Crucible was written in 1953. In 1956, Arthur Miller is summoned before HUAC. He refuses to name names.

Some people apply the play to the hunt for terrorists after 9/11.