

Miller believed ‘that the reader [would] discover [in *The Crucible*] the essential nature of one of the strangest and most awful chapters in human history.’

To what extent does he achieve this?

In the boxes below, add your own ideas about the play’s *characters* and their *language*. You may wish to use quotes.

Parris:

- easily swayed
- small minded
- materialistic
-
-
-

Reverend Hale:

- zealous
- well meaning
- frequently uses religious diction
-
-

Abigail:

- strong
- manipulative
- ruthless
- speaks in short, often exclamatory sentences
-

Mary Warren:

- simple minded and gullible
-
-
-

CHARACTER and LANGUAGE

Putnams:

- quarrelsome
- jealous
-
-
-

Tituba:

- ‘other’, exotic and therefore dangerous
- has no rights, so it is safest for her to ‘confess’
- non standard dialect
-
-

John Proctor:

- strong
- well respected
- plain spoken – use of vernacular
-
-
-

Danforth:

- strict judge
- proud of his conviction rate
-
-
-
-

In the boxes below, write down everything you can remember about the **context** of the play, and add any ideas that you think haven’t been included:

McCarthyism in the 1940s and 1950s

SOCIAL AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Salem Witch Trials (1692)

Puritanism – confession leads to redemption.