

# Quotations in *The Crucible*

## Quotations

- Memorise key quotes for:
  - Characters: Words that reveal personality or motivations.
  - Themes: Phrases that encapsulate major ideas.
  - Imagery or Symbols: Words or phrases that enhance understanding of the text's style.

Quotations are crucial for understanding *The Crucible*. They reveal the motivations of characters, highlight the play's central themes, and enhance the narrative with vivid imagery and symbols. Below is a guide to key quotes under the headings of **Characters**, **Themes**, and **Imagery or Symbols**.

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### 1. Characters

#### John Proctor

- “*Because it is my name! Because I cannot have another in my life!*” (Act IV)
  - **Relevance:** Proctor’s cry as he refuses to sign a false confession highlights his desire to preserve his integrity, even at the cost of his life.
  - **Significance:** This moment completes Proctor’s redemption arc and underscores the theme of personal honour and truth.
- “*We are what we always were, but naked now.*” (Act II)
  - **Relevance:** Proctor reflects on how the hysteria in Salem has exposed the true nature of people’s characters.
  - **Significance:** This line reveals Proctor’s disillusionment with the moral decay of his community.

#### Abigail Williams

- “*Let either of you breathe a word, or the edge of a word, about the other things, and I will bring a pointy reckoning that will shudder you.*” (Act I)
  - **Relevance:** Abigail’s threat to the other girls reveals her manipulative and violent nature.
  - **Significance:** It sets the tone for Abigail’s control over the events in Salem and foreshadows the chaos she will cause.
- “*She is blackening my name in the village! She is telling lies about me!*” (Act I)
  - **Relevance:** Abigail’s complaint about Elizabeth Proctor highlights her vindictive and self-serving personality.
  - **Significance:** This line reflects Abigail’s motivation to target Elizabeth, stemming from her obsession with John Proctor.

#### Elizabeth Proctor

- “*The magistrate sits in your heart that judges you.*” (Act II)

- **Relevance:** Elizabeth points out that Proctor's guilt over his affair is his own burden to bear.
- **Significance:** This quote reveals Elizabeth's perceptiveness and sets the stage for Proctor's internal struggle.
- “*He have his goodness now. God forbid I take it from him.*” (Act IV)
  - **Relevance:** Elizabeth's final words reflect her acceptance of Proctor's choice to die with integrity.
  - **Significance:** This moment encapsulates Elizabeth's understanding of personal honour and redemption.

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## 2. Themes

### Hysteria

- “*We burn a hot fire here; it melts down all concealment.*” (Danforth, Act III)
  - **Relevance:** Danforth's statement captures the intensity of the trials and their supposed purpose to uncover hidden truths.
  - **Significance:** The quote ironically highlights the destructive power of hysteria, as the trials instead amplify lies and fear.
- “*The Devil is alive in Salem, and we dare not quail to follow wherever the accusing finger points!*” (Hale, Act II)
  - **Relevance:** Hale's early support of the trials reflects the overwhelming fear driving the hysteria in Salem.
  - **Significance:** This line illustrates how fear of the unknown can lead to irrational actions and injustice.

### Integrity and Reputation

- “*A man will not cast away his good name. You surely know that.*” (Proctor, Act III)
  - **Relevance:** Proctor defends his decision to confess his affair, prioritising truth over reputation.
  - **Significance:** The line encapsulates the tension between public image and personal integrity.
- “*I have given you my soul; leave me my name!*” (Proctor, Act IV)
  - **Relevance:** Proctor's plea to preserve his name reflects his ultimate decision to prioritise honour over survival.
  - **Significance:** This quote underscores the theme of personal redemption and the value of truth.

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## 3. Imagery or Symbols

### Fire and Purification

- “*We burn a hot fire here; it melts down all concealment.*” (Danforth, Act III)
  - **Relevance:** Fire is used metaphorically to suggest cleansing and exposure of hidden truths.

- **Significance:** Ironically, the trials create more lies and destruction, subverting the imagery of fire as purifying.

## The Poppet

- “*Why, this go hard with her, Proctor, this—I had my doubts, Proctor, I had my doubts.*” (Cheever, Act II)
  - **Relevance:** The discovery of the poppet with a needle is used as false evidence against Elizabeth Proctor.
  - **Significance:** The poppet symbolises the manipulation and absurdity of the trials, where superstition replaces logic.

## The Noose

- “*I cannot mount the gibbet like a saint. It is a fraud. I am not that man.*” (Proctor, Act IV)
  - **Relevance:** Proctor initially views the noose as a symbol of shame but later accepts it as a symbol of redemption.
  - **Significance:** The noose represents both the cost of integrity and the sacrifice required to uphold it.

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## Final Thoughts

Quotations in *The Crucible* not only enhance the reader’s understanding of characters and themes but also provide a vivid glimpse into the play’s world of fear, ambition, and moral conflict. By memorising and analysing these lines, you’ll be better equipped to discuss how Miller crafts a compelling narrative with universal relevance.