

The Crucible Character List

Creating quality interview questions takes skill. Doing so with limited information takes even more skill. Let's see what you can do. Read the descriptions of the main characters below. Imagine you could interview each character based on this information and create (2) high quality interview questions for each (total of 20). Please use a separate sheet of paper.

John Proctor – A local farmer who lives just outside town; Elizabeth Proctor's husband. A stern, harsh-tongued man, John hates hypocrisy. Nevertheless, he has a hidden sin – his affair with Abigail Williams – that proves his downfall. When the hysteria begins, he hesitates to expose Abigail as a fraud because he worries that his secret will be revealed and his good name ruined.

Abigail Williams – Reverend Parris' niece. Abigail was once the servant for the Proctor household, but Elizabeth Proctor fired her after she discovered that Abigail was having an affair with her husband, John Proctor. Abigail is smart, wily, a good liar, and vindictive when crossed.

Reverend John Hale – A young minister reputed to be an expert on witchcraft. Rev. Hale is called in to Salem to examine Parris' daughter Betty. Hale is a committed Christian and hater of witchcraft. His critical mind and intelligence save him from falling into blind fervor. His arrival sets the hysteria in motion, although he later regrets his actions and attempts to save the lives of those accused.

Elizabeth Proctor – John Proctor's wife. Elizabeth fired Abigail when she discovered that her husband was having an affair with Abigail. Elizabeth is supremely virtuous, but often cold.

Reverend Parris – The minister of Salem's church. Reverend Parris is a paranoid, power-hungry, yet oddly self-pitying figure. Many of the townsfolk, especially John Proctor, dislike him. Parris is very concerned with building his position in the community.

Rebecca Nurse – Francis Nurse's wife. Rebecca is a wise, sensible, and upright woman, held in tremendous regard by most of the Salem community. However, she falls victim to the hysteria when the Putnams accuse her of witchcraft and she refuses to confess.

Giles Corey – An elderly but feisty farmer in Salem, famous for his tendency to file lawsuits. Giles' wife, Martha, is accused of witchcraft, and he himself is eventually held in contempt of court and pressed to death with large stones. (This is a historical fact, not a spoiler ☺)

Thomas Putnam – A wealthy, influential citizen of Salem. He uses the witch trials to increase his own wealth by accusing people of witchcraft and then buying up their land. His daughter, Ruth, seems to be "sick". This causes him and his wife, Ann, to go to the Parris' house to investigate the rumor of witchcraft.

Tituba – Reverend Parris black slave from Barbados. Tituba agrees to perform voodoo at Abigail's request.

Mary Warren – a timid, naive, "follower" type of girl. She is friends with Abigail, but also terrified of her. She replaces Abigail as the Proctor's servant.

