

# The crucible



Kayla Howey AP English "Literary Essay Rough Draft" The Crucible In most cases, the ability to control the thoughts and actions of people has a detrimental effect. This power arises throughout different scenarios in human life. The Crucible, by Arthur Miller, portrays the events of the Salem Witchcraft Trials in which the entire village is brought into hysteria. The power individuals have over controlling the outcomes of society, as well as the actions of people, is a prominent aspect of the play. Setting up the events that will take place, the young, female servants of Salem are found dancing in the woods.

Their actions are immediately connected to witchcraft, and they are blamed for associating with the devil. Commotion in the town soon begins since two of the girls are unable to wake. It is exposed among the girls that Abigail asked Tituba to conjure a charm that would kill Goody Proctor. Abigail establishes a strong power over the other girls to ensure she is not unveiled. She asserts command with her ruthless words, "Let either of you breathe a word, or the edge of a word, about the other things, and I will come to you in the black of some terrible night and I will bring a pointy reckoning that will shudder you." (20) Using this threat, Abigail puts herself in a position of authority. By implanting a horrible idea into their minds, Abigail is able to take control.

The girls become frightened; therefore, the silence Abigail wants is accomplished. John Proctor lies at the heart of the problem. He is the sole incentive for Abigail's attempt of killing Goody Proctor. The affair between them and the hope of its continuation play as a motive for Abigail's desire. Her faith in their relationship is ended when Proctor exemplifies

how power again is a dominating force. Even though he had willingly committed the sin of adultery, he now refuses to acknowledge any longing or compassion for Abigail, realizing the mistake he made. The affect his actions have on Abigail are that of destruction.

Her jealousy arouses an obsession within, consuming the majority of her life. Her resistance to letting go of him is portrayed through her passionate plead, ??? I look for John Proctor that took me from my sleep and put knowledge in my heart!...And now you bid me tear the light out of my eyes I will not, I cannot! You loved me, John Proctor???. Pity me??? (24). Proctor keeps his strength, failing not to her requests.

His sin is not forgotten, though. Abigail must live with it every day of her life, bearing the burden of rejection and confused hope. The ability to falsely accuse is the leading factor of the town hysteria. The girls start their allegations only for the purpose of concealing their wrong-doings. However, with fear of stopping the scandal they have started, the girls gain more and more power, making their control over society unstoppable. Anything they say goes.

The adults and authority of the town have no choice but to listen to them. After all, the girls create believable proof of their bewitchments and sufferings. Their credibility increases even more when connecting themselves with God, ??? I want to open myself! I want the light of God, I want the sweet love of Jesus! (48).

The people of Salem revolve around The Lord, accepting His word as a prevailing force. Convincingly incorporating God??'s consent of their

accusations, the girls'™ power is undeniable to even the jurisdiction. Acting like puppets, the court members do as the girls say, leading to an uncontrollable amount of madness throughout the town. Arthur Miller's, 'The Crucible,' represents a world driven by the reign of others. As in many situations, a victim is characterized by the unrelenting power another individual possesses. The dominance one may have may not be shown in a grandiose way.

Small or insignificant occurrences may develop as well; essay about online social networking however, the controlling nature still is present. Throughout the play, characters, along with society, are drawn into this trap that others thrive on.