

# [The crucible: characters and act i](https://assignbuster.com/the-crucible-characters-and-act-i/)

Reverend Parristhe minister of Salem, Massachusetts; the witch scare began with his daughter's mysterious illnessBetty Parris10 years old; Rev. Parris' daughter; one of the initial accusersTitubathe Parris' slave from BarbadosAbigail WilliamsParris' niece and chief among the accusers; formerly a servant in the Proctor householdSusanna Walcottaccused of witchcraftMrs. Ann Putnambitter woman ho sides with the accusers; mother of Ruth; 7 children of hers have diedThomas Putnamenemy of Rev. Parris; always eyeing landMercy Lewisthe Putnam's servant; one of the accusers; friend of AbigailMary WarrenThe Proctor's servant; one of the accusers; replaced AbigailJohn Proctorprominent landholder and farmer in Salem; had affair with Abigail; later taken to jail for witchcraftRebecca Nurseprominent citizen of Salem; famous for her virtue and charity; later hung for witchcraftGiles Coreyprominent landholder in Salem; married to Martha; arrested for withholding evidenceReverend John Haleanother minister from Beverly, Mass.; famous for his study of witchcraft and witchesElizabeth ProctorJohn's wife; pregnant while John in jail; supposedly never lies but did to try to save her husbandFrancis NurseRebecca's husband; argues over land with PutnamEzekiel Cheevertown constableMarshal Herricktown jailer; often drunkJudge Hawthornethe inflexible judge in the witch trials; distant ancestor of Nathaniel HawthorneDeputy Governor Danforthpresiding officer of the courtSarah Goodone of the condemnedHopkinsa guard in the jailAct I: What purpose does the overture serve? To introduce the characters and also compare the Puritans and the 1950's AmericaAct I: What does the " spareness" of the Puritan setting reveal about the lives of the townspeople of Salem? The Puritans lived simple lives with no fancy furnitureAct I: What Puritan primary fear is apparent in the philosophy, " In unity still lay the best promise of safety"? Everyone is the same; if someone were to be different they were seen as working with the devil in some wayAct I: Explain the significance of the forest to the Puritans. Dangerous; the Native Americans often killed animals in there and were scared of interacted with themAct I: Explain the irony in the Puritans' pilgrimage to Salem to escape persecution. They left England to gain freedom; but in the new world they persecuted all those who were different; no freedomAct I: When Abigail enter, she is described as " a strikingly beautiful girl... with an endless capacity for dissembling." What does the phrase " endless capacity for dissembling" suggest? She lies all the time and she is not trustworthy whatsoeverAct I: When Susanna exits, Abigail makes a confession to Parris, which she recants near the end of Act I. What is her confession, and why does she change her mind? She confesses that there is no witchcraft. All she did was dance in the woods. Later Tituba is blamed for bewitching the girls. Act I: Based on his words, what seems to be Parris' motivation for inadvertently causing the hysteria? His only concern is for keeping his reputation clean. Act I: Explain the relationship between Abigail and Elizabeth Proctor. Elizabeth fired Abigail for not doing her job very well and Abigail wanted to kill Elizabeth so she can have John all to herself. Act I: What are the Putnam's motivations for his actions in Salem? Thomas acts out of greed; argues over land with ProctorsAct I: Explain the dramatic irony when Parris says, " I know that you-you least of all, Thomas, would ever wish so disastrous a charge laid upon me." Putnam wants to ruin Parris; but Parris believes that he is his main support guyAct I: What role did Ann Putnam play in the dancing in the forest? She asked her daughter, Ruth, to conjure the spirits of her seven dead children. Act I: Explain briefly how Putnam coerces Parris to declare witchcraft. The congregation will love him if he destroys the Devil in Salem; again, trying to save his reputationAct I: What does Betty's information about dancing in the forest reveal about Abigail's true motivation? Abigail drank chicken's blood to try to murder Elizabeth ProctorAct I: What does the threat of a " pointy reckoning" reveal about Abigail's true nature? Abigail physically threatens the other girls; we learn that she is the driving force of plot and hysteriaAct I: What does Miller mean by: " A Proctor is always marked for calumny"? Proctor openly goes against the status quo; society protects themselves from people like him by making up stories about himAct I: Describe Mary Warren's personality. Submissive; wants to tell the truth; often compared to a mouseAct I: Contrast Proctor's verbal excuse about why he has come to Parris' house with what his actions indicate may be his true motivation for coming. Proctor says he is just seeing what Parris is up too but he doesn't talk to anyone but Abigail; his really only came to talk to herAct I: Explain Proctor and Abigail's relationship. Had an affair while Abigail was working for the Proctors. Act I: What does Abigail say that leads Parris, Putnam, and Mrs. Putnam to believe Betty is bewitches? Abigail tells them that Betty screamed because she heard the church singingAct I: Describe Rebecca Nurse physically and by reputation. 72 years old; highly reguarded in societyAct I: What three grudges could the Putnam's have against the Nurses? Nurses have 300 acres of land-Putnam believes that some of the land is rightfully his own. The Nurse's had been some of the people who kept Putnam's relative from getting the minister positionAct I: In Proctor's argument with Rev. Parris, the theme of authority arises. What are the two points of view? Parris: He is the final authority on what is good for the soul and what isn't   
Proctor: Individual heart and conscience are his authorityAct I: Describe Giles Corey both physically and personally. 83 years old; muscular; crank and nuisance but also innocent and braveAct I: What is Rebecca's solution to Betty's and Ruth's ailments, and why does this solution anger Ann Putnam? Rebecca had 11 kids with 26 grand-kids; she says that they will stop playing when they get tired; Ann has lost 7 children and takes Rebecca's phrase as an insultAct I: What is Reverend Hale's motivation? Dedicated his whole life to studying and searching for witches and is determined to find oneAct I: In terms of indirect characterization, why is it significant that Hales recognizes one of the characters by reputation? He says Rebecca Nurse is as a good soul should be; shows how he reputation is based on her goodnessAct I: What question does Giles ask Hales that shows his comical, innocent personality? Giles asks Hale why his wife reads " strange books"; he is opening persecution for his wife MarthaAct I: What effect does Miller create by lowering the curtain for this act during the girls' cries of witchcraft? Leaves us thinking that everyone is a suspectAct I: What motivates Abby and Betty to begin denouncing everyone? Abby is redeeming herself through confession; Betty is caught up in the hysteria of the situation and following Abby's leadWho was in the forest? Tituba, Abigail, Betty, Mercy, Mary, RuthWhat really went down in the woods? Tituba was performing traditional Barbados rituals; Ann Putnam told Ruth to conjure up her dead siblings; Abigail wanted to ask Tituba for help with getting rid of Elizabeth; the girls danced and chanted to Barbados culture; Abby drank chicken blood to try to kill Elizabeth; Mercy Lewis was naked at some point ONTHE CRUCIBLE: CHARACTERS AND ACT I SPECIFICALLY FOR YOUFOR ONLY$13. 90/PAGEOrder Now