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Social Lit.—Silver *The Crucible* Characters

**Characters—Act I** (pages 3-48)

Keep track of characters using this character chart. Provide information stated directly in the text, as well as your own inferences. Provide concrete details when possible. Remember to specify page numbers!

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Character** | **Characteristics** | **What happens/has happened to this character?** |
| **Reverend Samuel Parris:**   * Father to Betty, uncle to Abigail; took Abigail in * Very religious * Demanding🡪 wants more money and more supplies (29) * Tituba is his slave | | * Terrified of accusations of witchcraft (thinks enemies will use knowledge of his house’s involvement w witchcraft to kick him out of his position of power)   + “They will howl me out of Salem for such corruption in my house” (14) * Suspicious of Abigail (dancing in woods, fired from Proctor house, bad reputation, not hired in 7 months) (12) * “There is a party in this church… there is a faction and a party” out to overthrow him as reverend (30) |
| **Betty Parris:**   * 10 years old, sick at start of play (is she pretending?!) * Mother is dead; cried out for her mother (19) * Scared of what she was a part of in the woods/of Abby’s behavior/of what she believes could be the consequences (hanging) (19) | | * Betty was in the woods * Townspeople think witchcraft caused her sickness * Abby tries to control her * Awakens from sickness when Tituba & Abby get attention for their confessions of associating with the devil (48) |
| **Reverend Hale:**   * “nearing 40, a tight-skinned, eager-eyed intellectual” (32) * “Reverend Hale of Beverly” (13) * “He has much experience in all demonic arts” (14) 🡪 found witch in Beverly last year * Prideful man | | * On his way to Salem to see what is going on with the witchcraft accusations * “**This is a beloved errand for him**; on being called here to ascertain witchcraft he felt **pride** of the specialist whose unique knowledge has at last been publicly called for” (32-33). |
| **Abigail Williams:**   * 17 years old, beautiful girl, an orphan (taken in by Parris) * She has an “endless capacity for dissembling” (9) * Controlling 🡪 tells other girls what to and what not to say (18) * Ringleader? * Accuses Tituba of bewitching her at church & during prayer (44) | | * “You drank blood, Abby! You didn’t tell them that!...You drank a charm to kill John Proctor’s wife! You drank a charm to kill Goody Proctor” (19 * Had an affair with John Proctor (still in love with him) * Fired from job as maid at the Proctor house 🡪 claims Goody Proctor to be a “gossiping liar!” (12) * Lies about what happened in the woods/trickster 🡪 Claims to have little knowledge of what’s happening to Betty and Ruth * “Confesses” to dancing for the devil once she sees Tituba getting attention for her confession (48) |
| **Tituba:**   * Slave from Barbados, Rev. Parris’s slave * “Tituba knows how to speak to the dead” (15), according to Ann Putnam | | * Somehow involved in the fiasco in the woods * Tricked into a confession? 🡪 “You are God’s instrument put in our hands to discover the Devil’s agents among us. You are selected, Tituba, you are chosen to help us cleanse our village. So speak utterly, Tituba, turn your back on him and face God—face God, Tituba, and God will protect you” (46). * Blames Sarah Good & Goody Osburn for witchcraft/working w/ devil after PUTNAM puts the two names in her head (46-47) |
| **Ann Putnam:**   * “Twisted soul of forty-five, a death-ridden woman, haunted by dreams” (12) * Believes witchcraft is the cause of Ruth’s sickness and “strange” behavior (15) * Suspects Tituba in cursing Ruth, her only living child | | * 7 of her babies died after birth; Ruth only surviving child (15) |
| **Thomas Putnam:**   * “a man with many grievances” (14) * Wealthy citizen of Salem * Hold grudges/resentment & gets revenge | | * Daughter, Ruth, is “sick” 🡪 believes it’s witchcraft * “so many accusations against people are in the handwriting of Thomas Putnam…his name is so often found as a witness corroborating the supernatural testimony…his daughter led the crying-out at the most opportune junctures of the trials” (15) * Responsible for many witch accusations * Accuses Proctor of stealing/taking lumber from his part of the woods (32) |
| **Mary Warren:**   * 17 years old, “subservient, naïve, lonely girl” (18) * Abby & Mercy view her as weak * John Proctor’s servant | | * Didn’t partake in the woods: “I never done none of it, Abby. I only looked!” (19) * Claims to have no association with witchcraft * Wants to tell the truth about the woods (Abby & Mercy say no) |
| **John Proctor:**   * Good person, but considers himself a sinner because of the affair (20) * Mid 30s * Respected in the community * Farmer * Married to Elizabeth | | * Had an affair with Abigail * Loves his wife and ended the affair with Abby * Gets angry when Abigail talks badly about his wife, Elizabeth * Does not want Hale to come and investigate witchcraft 🡪 thinks that Hale will bring chaos to the town * Thinks that Parris cares too much about money 🡪 dislikes him * Does not want Parris to continue working as the minister in the town 🡪 “I like not the smell of this ‘authority’” (31) |
| **Rebecca Nurse:**   * Very good, honest, respected woman in Salem (26) * 72 years old (25) * Logical and rational | | * Does NOT think people should consider witchcraft to be the cause of the problems * Does not want Hale to come look for witchcraft 🡪 thinks he will bring chaos to the town (28) |