

**Chapter 1 : The Crucible - CliffsNotes - theinnatdunvilla.com**

*The Crucible takes place in Salem, Massachusetts in The action begins in the home of Reverend Parris, whose daughter Betty lies unconscious and appears very ill. Around midnight the night before, Parris had discovered Betty, his niece Abigail, and Tituba, his black slave, dancing in the woods.*

The action begins in the home of Reverend Parris, whose daughter Betty lies unconscious and appears very ill. Around midnight the night before, Parris had discovered Betty, his niece Abigail, and Tituba, his black slave, dancing in the woods, causing Betty to swoon. Putnam arrive and reveal that their daughter Ruth is also ill. There is talk in the village of an unnatural cause. Betty wakes, and Abigail threatens the other girls with violence if they tell anyone that she drank blood and cast a spell in order to kill Goody Proctor. Betty loses consciousness again. John Proctor and Abigail talk privately about their former relationship. Prior to the opening of the play, Abigail worked as a servant in the Proctor home. Elizabeth Proctor was ill at the time and Abigail took on more responsibility within the Proctor household. When Elizabeth discovered the affair, she dismissed Abigail. During their discussion, Abigail becomes angry with Proctor because he refuses to acknowledge any feelings for her. Betty wakes again and is hysterical. The well-respected Rebecca Nurse is visiting the Parris household and calms her. Putnam asks Rebecca to visit Ruth and attempt to wake her. Ruth is the only Putnam child to survive infancy, and Mrs. Putnam had lost seven infant children. Putnam, Proctor, and Giles Corey argue with Parris about his salary and other expectations. Parris claims that a faction is working to drive him out of town, and he disputes their salary figures. Putnam, Proctor, and Corey then begin arguing over property lines and ownership. Putnam accuses Proctor of stealing wood from land that he does not own, but Proctor defends himself, stating that he purchased the land from Francis Nurse five months ago. Putnam claims Francis had no right to the land and, therefore, could not sell it. Reverend Hale arrives from another town to investigate the strange events in Salem. Hale learns that the girls were dancing in the woods with Tituba, and that Tituba can conjure spirits. Abigail blames Tituba for enticing her to sin. Abigail also confesses to witchcraft, stating that she had given herself to the Devil, but that she now repents. Betty wakes up, and she and Abigail name individuals that they say they have seen with the Devil. Eight days later, Elizabeth discovers that Proctor spoke to Abigail privately while in Salem. Elizabeth and Proctor argue over this. Mary Warren comes home from Salem where she is serving as an official of the court, and gives Elizabeth a poppet doll that she made for her while sitting in the courtroom. Mary Warren tells Proctor that some of the girls accused Elizabeth of witchcraft, but the court dismissed the charge because Mary Warren defended her. Hale arrives at the Proctor house and questions Proctor about his poor church attendance. He asks Proctor to name the Ten Commandments. Proctor names nine successfully, but he forgets the commandment forbidding adultery. Hale questions Elizabeth as well. Proctor reveals that Abigail admitted to him that the witchcraft charges were false. Marshal Herrick then arrives and arrests Elizabeth. Earlier that evening, Abigail feels a needle-stab while eating dinner, and she accuses Elizabeth of attempted murder. The authorities of Salem search the Proctor house and discover the poppet, along with a needle. Hale questions Mary Warren and learns that she sewed the poppet and stored the needle inside. Mary Warren also tells him that Abigail saw her sew the poppet and store the needle. Nevertheless, Elizabeth is arrested. The court convicts Martha Corey and Rebecca Nurse of witchcraft. Giles Corey tells the court he has proof that Putnam is accusing his neighbors of witchcraft in order to gain their land. Judge Danforth asks the name of the witness who gave Corey the information, but Corey refuses to cooperate. The court arrests him. Judge Danforth informs Proctor that Elizabeth is pregnant. Mary Warren tells the court that she pretended to see spirits and falsely accused others of witchcraft. She reveals that Abigail and the other girls are also lying. Proctor informs the court of his affair with Abigail and states that she is lying in order to have Elizabeth executed, thereby providing herself with the opportunity to become his wife. After Proctor agrees that Elizabeth would never lie, the court summons Elizabeth and questions her about the affair. Not knowing that her husband has confessed it, Elizabeth lies about the affair and is returned to jail. Proctor is in prison, scheduled to hang, along with Rebecca Nurse. Elizabeth is also in prison, although the court has delayed her execution until after she gives

birth. Hale attempts to convince the prisoners to confess rather than hang, but all refuse. Proctor confesses and signs a written affidavit, but he destroys the document rather than have it posted on the church door. Proctor is taken to the gallows.

Chapter 2 : The Crucible Summary - theinnatdunvilla.com

*Miller's title, The Crucible, is appropriate for the play. A crucible is a container made of a substance that can resist great heat ; a crucible is also defined as a severe test. A crucible is a container made of a substance that can resist great heat ; a crucible is also defined as a severe test.*

Miller bases the play on the historical account of the Salem witch trials. In particular he focuses on the discovery of several young girls and a slave playing in the woods, conjuring " or attempting to conjure " spirits from the dead. Rather than suffer severe and inevitable punishment for their actions, the girls accused other inhabitants of Salem of practicing witchcraft. Ironically, the girls avoided punishment by accusing others of the very things of which they were guilty. This desperate and perhaps childish finger-pointing resulted in mass paranoia and an atmosphere of fear in which everyone was a potential witch. As the number of arrests increased, so did the distrust within the Salem community. A self-perpetuating cycle of distrust, accusation, arrest, and conviction emerged. By the end of , the Salem court had convicted and executed nineteen men and women. Miller creates an atmosphere and mood within the play reminiscent of the historical period and of Puritan culture. The inhabitants of Salem lived in a restrictive society. Although the Puritans left England to avoid religious persecution, they based their newly established society upon religious intolerance. The Puritans demonstrated their faithfulness, honesty, and integrity through physical labor and strict adherence to religious doctrine. The Puritans had no tolerance for inappropriate or unacceptable behavior and punished individuals publicly and severely if they transgressed. Miller captures the intolerance and religious fanaticism of the period and effectively incorporates them into the play. Reading about the Salem witch trials and the paranoid frenzy going on at the time is one thing, but witnessing the trials first hand is quite another experience. Miller permits the audience to do just that by transforming the faceless names from history into living, breathing characters with desires, emotions, and freewill. Miller did make adjustments to the ages, backgrounds, and occupations of several of the individuals mentioned in the historical records, however. For example, he lowers the age gap between John Proctor and Abigail Williams from sixty and eleven, respectively, to thirty-five and seventeen, enabling the plot line of an affair between the two. Proctor and his wife Elizabeth ran an inn as well as a farm, but Miller eliminates this detail. Finally, Miller chose to omit the fact that Proctor had a son who was also tortured during the witch trials because he refused to confess to witchcraft. This classic love triangle appears repeatedly in literature, not to mention the supermarket tabloids. On one hand Miller addresses a particularly dark period in American history " a time in which society believed the Devil walked the streets of Salem and could become manifest in anyone, even a close neighbor or, worse yet, a family member. On the other hand, Miller moves beyond a discussion of witchcraft and what really happened in Salem to explore human motivation and subsequent behavior. The play continues to affect audiences by allowing them to see how dark desires and hidden agendas can be played out. Abigail is a young woman who seizes an opportunity to reverse fate. She has had an affair with Proctor, who now refuses to continue the affair out of a mixture of guilt and loyalty to his wife. Although Abigail enjoys being the chief witness of the court, her chief desire is to obtain Proctor, and she will do anything to bring this about, including self-mutilation and murder. The Putnams also seize opportunity. The Royal Charter was revoked in and original land titles became invalid, creating a crisis of property rights. Individuals no longer felt secure with their landholdings because they could be reassigned at any time. As a result, neighbors distrusted one another and feuds broke out regarding property rights and clear deeds of ownership. Miller incorporates this aspect of the period into the play through the character of Mr. Like Abigail, a hidden agenda guides Putnam, namely his greed for land. He too, will stop at nothing to satisfy his desire, even if attaining his goal means murdering his neighbors by falsely accusing them of witchcraft so he can purchase their lands after their executions. A crucible is a container made of a substance that can resist great heat ; a crucible is also defined as a severe test. Within the context of the play the term takes on a new meaning: In other words, the audience observes the character as he or she is tested, and the audience ultimately determines if he or she passes the test. Proctor provides an excellent example. His affair with Abigail results in a fall from grace, not only with his

wife Elizabeth, but also within himself. Proctor is tested severely when he goes to the court to defend Elizabeth. In order to save his wife, he must publicly announce his sin and, therefore, lose his good name. Although he gives up his good name in court, he regains it at the end of the play by destroying his signed confession. The audience watches Proctor as the play progresses and judges his actions according to his motivations and reactions to the various "tests" through which he passes. As the audience observes the characters, the audience itself is tested and forced to acknowledge that desire — whether positive, such as the desire for pleasure, or negative, such as lust, greed, or envy — is a realistic part of life. The realization that desire affects individuals and their behavior keeps the audience engrossed in the play. The Crucible is divided into four acts; however, Miller does not include scene breaks within the play. The original version of the play included an encounter between John Proctor and Abigail in the woods; however, Miller chose to remove Act II, Scene 2, as it changed the dynamics of the play. This scene is generally included in the appendix of publications, but is rarely included in production of the play.

**Chapter 3 : SparkNotes: The Crucible: Act I: Opening scene to the entrance of John Proctor**

*Characters. See a complete list of the characters in The Crucible and in-depth analyses of John Proctor, Abigail Williams, Reverend Hale, Elizabeth Proctor, Judge Danforth, Mary Warren, and Giles Corey.*

Act 1 In the Puritan town of Salem, Massachusetts in 1692, the town minister, Reverend Parris, discovers his daughter Betty, niece Abigail, and other girls dancing in the forest with his slave Tituba. Betty faints in fright at being discovered, and will not wake. Abigail says they were just dancing, though it soon comes out that Tituba was trying to conjure dead spirits. Parris runs off to calm the crowd, and a local farmer named John Proctor winds up alone with Abigail. While Abigail was a servant in the Proctor household, she and Proctor had an affair. Abigail tells Proctor there was no witchcraft, and insists Proctor still loves her. Under threat of punishment if she refuses to confess, Tituba breaks down and admits she communed with the devil. She begins to name other witches in the town. Betty wakes and joins in. Eight days later, Proctor and his wife Elizabeth discuss the many people who have been charged with witchcraft by a court presided over by the deputy governor of the province. They learn from their servant Mary Warren, one of the girls accusing people in the town of witchcraft, that Elizabeth is herself accused. Elizabeth wants Proctor to expose Abigail as a fraud, but she suspects Proctor may still have feelings for the girl. As Proctor angrily denies it, Hale arrives to investigate the Proctors. Moments later the authorities come and take away Elizabeth. Proctor brings Mary to court to expose the accusations as lies. The girls, led by Abigail, deny the charge. Abigail and the other girls seize the moment to pretend Mary is attacking them with her spirit. Mary breaks under the strain and joins them, denouncing Proctor as an ally of the devil. Hale, who now believes Proctor, denounces the actions of the court. The witch trials cause anger and riots in nearby towns. A few days before Proctor and many others are scheduled to hang, Abigail steals money from Parris and vanishes. Parris and Hale try to get the people convicted of witchcraft to confess in order to save their lives, because Danforth refuses to stop or postpone the executions, saying it would not be fair to those already hanged. After speaking with his wife, Proctor agrees to confess, but refuses to incriminate anyone other than himself. Once he signs his confession, he refuses to hand it over. Proctor tears up the statement. Parris and Hale are horror-struck as Proctor goes to the gallows, but Elizabeth says he has gotten his "goodness" back. Cite This Page Choose citation style: Retrieved November 8,

**Chapter 4 : About The Crucible**

*Understanding The Crucible: A Student Casebook to Issues, Sources, and Historical Documents (The Greenwood Press "Literature in Context" Series) Sep 30, by Claudia Durst Johnson and Vernon Johnson.*

Opening scene to the entrance of John Proctor Summary The play is set in Salem, Massachusetts, ; the government is a theocracyâ€”rule by God through religious officials. Within the community, there are simmering disputes over land. Matters of boundaries and deeds are a source of constant, bitter disagreements. Ten-year-old Betty Parris lies in an unmoving, unresponsive state. Parris is a grim, stern man suffering from paranoia. He believes that the members of his congregation should not lift a finger during religious services without his permission. Parris has sent for Reverend John Hale of Beverly, an expert on witchcraft, to determine whether Betty is indeed bewitched. Parris berates his niece, Abigail Williams, because he discovered her, Betty, and several other girls dancing in the forest in the middle of the night with his slave, Tituba. Tituba was intoning unintelligible words and waving her arms over a fire, and Parris thought he spotted someone running naked through the trees. Abigail denies that she and the girls engaged in witchcraft. She states that Betty merely fainted from shock when her father caught them dancing. Parris fears that his enemies will use the scandal to drive him out of his ministerial office. He asks Abigail if her name and reputation are truly unimpeachable. Elizabeth Proctor, a local woman who once employed Abigail at her home but subsequently fired her, has stopped attending church regularly. There are rumors that Elizabeth does not want to sit so close to a soiled woman. Abigail denies any wrongdoing and asserts that Elizabeth hates her because she would not work like a slave. Parris asks why no other family has hired Abigail if Elizabeth is a liar. Abigail insinuates that Parris is only worried about her employment status because he begrudges her upkeep. Thomas Putnam and his wife enter the room. Putnam had seven babies that each died within a day of its birth. Convinced that someone used witchcraft to murder them, she sent Ruth to Tituba to contact the spirits of her dead children in order to discover the identity of the murderer. Parris berates Abigail anew and asserts that she and the girls were indeed practicing witchcraft. Putnam urges Parris to head off his enemies and promptly announce that he has discovered witchcraft. Once they are alone, Abigail updates Mercy on the current situation. Mary Warren, the servant for the Proctor household, enters the room in a breathless, nervous state. She frets that they will all be labeled witches before long. Betty sits up suddenly and cries for her mother, but her mother is dead and buried. She threatens to kill them if they breathe a word about the other things that they did. She shakes Betty, but Betty has returned to her unmoving, unresponsive state.

Chapter 5 : The Crucible: CliffsNotes (Audiobook) by Jennifer L. Scheidt M.A. | [theinnatdunvilla.com](http://theinnatdunvilla.com)

*CliffsNotes on The Crucible takes you into Arthur Miller's play about good and evil, self-identity and morality. Following the atmosphere and action of the Salem witch trials of the s, this study guide looks into Puritan culture with critical commentaries about each act and scene.*

The Crucible is a dramatic work by American playwright Arthur Miller. The play, first produced on Broadway in 1953, illustrates the story of the Salem witch trials of 1692. The play opens with Reverend Samuel Parris standing over the bedside of his daughter, Betty, who has fallen into a comatose-like state. Parris requests Beverly summon Reverend Hale, an expert in the subject of the demonic arts, to examine Betty for signs of the Devil. When the adults leave the room, Abigail, along with Mercy Lewis, attempt to rouse Betty. When Betty awakens, she is hysterical and claims Abigail drank blood the night before in a ritual designed to kill Elizabeth Proctor. Abigail slaps and threatens Betty into submission, and tells the rest of the group if they admit anything happened that night besides dancing, she will hunt them down in the night and do them great harm. John Proctor arrives and chastises his servant, Mary Warren, for being away from his home and her duties. When Proctor and Abigail are left alone, Abigail pleads to Proctor to give her a "soft word" and alludes to a previous affair between the two. Act I, p. Betty again awakens in hysterics upon hearing a psalm sung below, and several townspeople rush to her room. Rebecca Nurse, an older respected woman in the community, stands above Betty until she returns to sleep, and then comments that the child is likely only experiencing a passing illness, and rushing to the conclusion of witchcraft is a dangerous action. Reverend John Hale arrives and examines Betty, consulting a number of books to determine if she is marked by the Devil. The Putnams, another family in Salem, also have an afflicted child, and Hale goes to examine Ruth Putnam as well. Tituba is brought forward and is beaten and threatened with hanging for her evil deeds until she too finally breaks and begins naming the names of those she believes to be possessed by the Devil. Abigail joins in and soon all of the girls are hysterical and exclaiming the names of everyone they believe to be witches in Salem. John Proctor and his wife, Elizabeth, discuss the events and the fact that fourteen people have been arrested for witchcraft in the town. Elizabeth begs John to go to Ezekiel Cheever, a town authority, and reveal the information he learned from Abigail that the dancing had nothing to do with witchcraft. When Elizabeth discovers Proctor was alone with Abigail when she told him this information, she turns cold with distrust. Mary Warren returns from court and is lambasted by Proctor for abandoning her duties at home. Mary, though, asserts she is now an official of the court and her duties are of a higher cause. John Proctor convinces Mary Warren to stand in court against Abigail and the others, claiming their accusations were false. Abigail psychologically regains control over Mary Warren, who then turns against Proctor, calling him an agent of the Devil. Proctor is arrested and incarcerated. The following fall, twelve prisoners have been executed and seven remain in jail. Reverend Hale has denounced the trial and stands by those accused, attempting to get them to confess in order to save their lives. Proctor decides to lie in order to save his life and family, but when faced with the fact that his confession will be nailed to the church doors, he retracts his confession and chooses to die an honest man. This section contains words approx.

**Chapter 6 : CliffsNotes on Miller's The Crucible - Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library - OverDrive**

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Knowing that the punishment for their behavior will be severe, the girls claim that they were possessed by the spirits of members of the community who are trying to initiate them into witchcraft. Because of the gravity of the accusations witchcraft is punishable by hanging, a court is set up to determine the guilt or innocence of those accused. Judges are sent to Salem from the Boston area to hear the cases. As each case is heard, the girls scream and faint to indicate whether the accused is afflicting them. While at first only a handful of citizens are indicated, the number soon grows to over a hundred. The children, quite suspiciously, have prior grievances against many of those accused, who had in some way offended them or made their lives miserable. He fights not only to save his wife, but also for the truth and for reason. The girls, led by Abigail, deny the charges. In a desperate attempt to discredit Abigail as a witness, Proctor then admits his adultery; however, when his wife is brought in to verify the story, she tries to save his reputation by denying the affair. Terrified of the other girls and of the punishment for lying to the court, Mary Warren soon turns against Proctor. She accuses him of being aligned with the devil and afflicting her. While many of those found guilty of witchcraft avoid hanging by confessing a connection to the devil, 19 others are hanged. On the day that John Proctor and Rebecca Nurse, another innocent victim with high standing in Salem, are to hang, many attempts are made to coerce them to confess and save their lives. Proctor knows that he has sinned in the past and feels unworthy to die now as a saint or martyr. Thinking of his three children and of his wife, he chooses to sign a confession; however, he immediately regrets his decision and refuses to give up the paper. He cannot bear the knowledge that his signature will be used to condemn other innocent citizens. Hence, it should take you no longer than three to four hours to read it in its entirety. The play is broken up into four acts, and some editions also include an appendix, which is meant to follow Act Two. Arthur Miller himself, however, removed this scene after the original production, and it is now rarely included in performance. The appendix will not be discussed in these notes. These divisions were incorporated into this Enote and do not appear in the actual play.

**Chapter 7 : Cliffsnotes on Miller's the Crucible by Denis M. Calandra**

*Get this from a library! CliffsNotes The crucible. [Jennifer L Scheidt] -- Presents the Cliffs Notes to Arthur Miller's classic novel "Crucible," and contains background information on the author, character analysis, and critical commentaries.*

External Study Guides The play opens with Betty Parris lying on a bed in her house, suffering from an unknown ailment. Her father, Reverend Parris, is at a loss, for many believe that she is possessed. As a minister, with a shaky reputation, he is afraid of the effects that this information would have on his position in the town. Against his better judgment, he calls in Rev. Hale from Beverly, who is an expert in the demonic arts, yet he publicly contends that the cause is not spiritual. She denies any wrongdoing, assuring him that they were just playing, but he is angry with her for putting him in the position in which he finds himself. People come to visit Betty, to investigate the matter, including the Putnams, whose daughter is also sick. They are convinced that she is bewitched, and encourage Parris to agree. John Proctor visits, and he and Abigail discuss her misconduct. She tells him about the night in the woods, and he jokes with her about it. She becomes serious, and asks him to think about their past relationship, which he rejects. She becomes angry, but at that moment everyone returns to the room after hearing Betty scream. Rebecca Nurse arrives and comforts her. Parris and Thomas Putnam. Each accuses the others of acting in bad faith. Hale arrives, and Proctor, Rebecca and Giles leave. Hale examines Betty, and the dancing in the woods becomes known. He asks Abigail about it, who immediately accuses Tituba, who is brought in. He questions her, and leads her to confess dealings with the devil. Abigail joins in, and Betty follows soon after, and the act ends with the two girls calling out the names of witches. Proctor and Elizabeth discuss the farm, and the trials, which are growing in number and significance. Their servant, Mary Warren, has become an official of the court, and has joined the girls in accusing the women of Salem of being witches. Elizabeth and Proctor are unsettled by the news, and Elizabeth asks Proctor to see Abigail about it. He becomes angry and accuses her of holding his past indiscretion over his head. They are interrupted by Rev. Hale, who is visiting the families of women who are accused. He asks them about their Sabbath Day habits, and then asks Proctor to recite the commandments. He does so, but leaves out the one forbidding adultery, which Elizabeth prompts. Hale is uneasy, but willing to accept their honesty, especially once Proctor mentions what Abigail told him about the dancing in the woods being mere play. Giles Corey and Francis Nurse arrive and inform the others that their wives have been arrested. They ask for dolls in the house, and the only one present is one that Mary gave Elizabeth that day. She is questioned about it, and confesses making it for her. Elizabeth is arrested anyway, for attempting to harm Abigail with it, and she is taken away. In the third act, which takes place at the court, the husbands gather in an attempt to defend their wives. Each has a deposition, which offers new information. Both statements are eventually dismissed when the men refuse to name the names of the people who support them. Proctor brings Mary Warren, who has made a statement in which she says she lied in court. Under questioning by Danforth, she maintains her statement, but when Abigail and the girls are brought in to be questioned, they turn on Mary and accuse her of sending her spirit out on them. Seeing things getting out of control, Proctor confesses his lechery, but Abigail threatens to leave the court if she is doubted, which Danforth will not allow. After much pressure, Mary rejoins the girls and accuses Proctor of forcing her to write the statement. The final act takes place in the prison, on morning of the hanging. Hale and Parris, who are trying to convince the prisoners to confess so to save their lives, ask Elizabeth to speak to Proctor. He discusses his thoughts about confessing with her. He maintains that he is not good enough to die in a manner equal to Rebecca, and so thinks to lie and confess, and thus save his life. Elizabeth agrees that she wants him to live, but maintains that he must consider his own soul, when thinking of forgiveness, rather than asking for it from her. He makes the confession, and signs it, but takes it up. Danforth insists on having a written confession, which can be posted as an example. Proctor cannot bear this and rips up the confession. Danforth leaves him to hang. He explains that his personal integrity is more important than his life, and Elizabeth, supports him, refusing to call to him and ask him to save his life, thus surrendering the goodness he finally achieves.

**Chapter 8 : The Crucible Summary and Cliff Notes | AntiStudy**

*This CliffsNotes study guide on Arthur Miller's The Crucible supplements the original literary work, giving you background information about the author, an introduction to the work, and critical commentaries, all for you to use as an educational tool that will allow you to better understand the work.*

**Chapter 9 : The Crucible Summary & Study Guide**

*A summary of Act I: Opening scene to the entrance of John Proctor in Arthur Miller's The Crucible. Learn exactly what happened in this chapter, scene, or section of The Crucible and what it means. Perfect for acing essays, tests, and quizzes, as well as for writing lesson plans.*