**Theme Guide**

****

**Name:**

**Close Reading Organizer - Act 1**

**Directions:** Read each summary entry and think about which themes listed in the Themes Key apply to it, then color in those themes in the Theme Tracker. Next, write a few sentences of Analysis to explain how the themes you chose apply to each summary section.

**Themes Key**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | Puritanism and Individuality |
| 2 | Hysteria |
| 3 | The Danger of Ideology |
| 4 | Reputation and Integrity |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Summary** | **Theme Tracker** | **Your Analysis** |
| **Betty Parris** has fallen into a strange coma. Around her hover **Reverend Parris**, her father and the minister of the Massachusetts town of Salem, his 17-year-old niece **Abigail Williams**, and his slave **Tituba**. When Tituba asks if Betty will be all right, Parris yells at her to get out of the room. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Susanna Walcott** arrives with news that the town doctor can't figure out what's the matter and suggests **Parris** look for spiritual causes. Parris says it can't possibly be spiritual causes, though just to make sure he's asked **Reverend Hale** from the nearby town of Beverly to come investigate. As Susanna leaves, both **Abigail** and Parris caution her to keep quiet about what she's seen. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Abigail** tells **Parris** about rumors that witchcraft caused **Betty**'s faint: a crowd has already gathered downstairs in Parris's house. Abigail suggests Parris publicly deny the rumors of witchcraft. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Parris** angrily asks if he should say he discovered his daughter and niece dancing "like heathen[s]" in the forest. **Abigail** admits they danced, but says that's all they did. Parris says that if the girls were conjuring spirits, he needs to know because his "enemies" will surely find out and ruin him. He says there's a group in the town that wants to drive him from his job as minister. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Abigail** insists there was no witchcraft, but **Parris** says he saw **Tituba** chanting over a cauldron. Abigail says that Tituba was just singing songs from Barbados, her homeland. Then Parris says he thinks he saw a naked body running away in the forest. Abigail swears no one was naked. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Parris** asks **Abigail** why **Elizabeth Proctor** fired her as a servant in the Proctor household six months earlier. He's heard rumors Elizabeth now rarely comes to church because she refuses to sit near Abigail. Parris also expresses concern that since Elizabeth dismissed Abigail, no other family has hired her. Abigail says Elizabeth dismissed her because she refused to act like a slave, and that other women haven't hired her for the same reason. She says her reputation in the town is spotless, and calls Elizabeth a cold woman and a gossiping liar. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Mrs. Ann Putnam** barges into the room. **Parris** yells that no one should enter, but when he sees who it is, he invites her in. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Mrs. Putnam** tells **Parris** this event is a mark of hell on his house. She then asks how high **Betty** flew. Parris denies that anyone flew, but Mrs. Putnam says witnesses saw her fly. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Thomas Putnam** enters and says it's a blessing that the "thing is out now." Putnam remarks that **Betty**'s eyes are closed, while his daughter Ruth's eyes are open. **Parris** is shocked that other girls are also sick. **Mrs. Putnam** says they're *not* sick: they're being attacked by the devil. Putnam asks if it's true that Parris sent for **Reverend Hale** from Beverly. Parris says yes, but just as a precaution. Putnam is certain there's been witchcraft, but Parris begs him not to say it. If witchcraft is charged Parris fears he may lose his ministry. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| At her husband's insistence, **Mrs. Putnam**, who's had seven babies die in infancy, admits she sent Ruth to **Tituba**, who can conjure the dead, to find out why the babies died. Now that Ruth is afflicted too, Mrs. Putnam is certain that someone murdered her babies. **Putnam** says a witch must be hiding in Salem. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Parris** turns to **Abigail**, who admits Ruth and **Tituba** conjured spirits, but insists she wasn't involved. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Parris** moans that he'll be run out of town. But **Putnam** says Parris won't be if he stands up and declares he's discovered witchcraft instead of letting others charge him with it. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Mercy Lewis**, the **Putnam**'s servant, enters with word that Ruth has improved slightly. Putnam and **Abigail** convince **Parris** he should speak to the crowd downstairs. Parris agrees to lead them in singing a psalm. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| When **Mercy** and **Abigail** are alone, Abigail tries desperately to wake **Betty**. Abigail and Mercy try to get their stories straight: they all danced and Ruth and **Tituba** conjured spirits. Abigail tells Mercy that **Parris** saw her naked. Another girl, **Mary Warren**, runs in. She's terrified that the town will condemn them as witches. She says they have to confess because the penalty for witchcraft is hanging, but if they confess to just dancing, they'll only be whipped. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Betty** suddenly wakes calls for her dead mother. **Abigail** tells Betty not to worry because she told **Parris** everything. But Betty says Abigail didn't tell that she drank blood as a charm to kill **Elizabeth Proctor**. Abigail smacks her across the face. She tells the other girls that if they admit to anything more than dancing and Ruth and **Tituba**'s conjuring, she'll kill them. Betty collapses back into her strange coma. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **John Proctor** enters. He reprimands **Mary**, his servant, for leaving his house when he ordered her not to. **Mary** and **Mercy Lewis** leave. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| When he's alone with **Abigail**, **Proctor** mentions the town's rumors of witchcraft. Abigail dismisses them, steps closer to Proctor, and says it's all nothing more than mischief. She says they were dancing and **Betty** just fainted. Proctor smiles, and says, "ah, you're wicked yet, aren't y'!" Abigail steps even closer and asks for a "soft word." She insists he still loves her. Proctor admits he has some feelings for her, but says the affair is over. Abigail, hurt and angry, insults **Elizabeth**, infuriating Proctor. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| Downstairs, **Parris** and the crowd sing a psalm. **Betty** begins to wail. Parris and the Putnams run into the room. **Mrs. Putnam** says it's a sign of witchcraft: Betty can't bear to hear the Lord's name. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Rebecca Nurse** and **Giles Corey** enter. **Parris** implores Rebecca to go to **Betty**. She does, and Betty quiets down. Parris and the Putnams are astonished. Rebecca says this is just an example of children being children, and adds that she hopes Parris isn't really going to claim "loose spirits" were the cause. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| A disagreement arises about whether **Parris** should have called **Reverend Hale** to come search Salem for spirits without first holding a meeting. The dispute erupts into an argument between **Proctor**, **Putnam**, **Mrs. Putnam**, **Rebecca Nurse**, and Parris about town politics and grievances. The argument covers everything from Putnam's meddling, to Mrs. Putnam's envy that none of Rebecca Nurse's children has died, to Proctor's dislike of Parris' fiery sermons, to Parris's belief that his salary is insufficient and that there's a faction against him in the town, to boundary disputes between Putnam, the Nurses, Proctor, and **Corey**. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Reverend Hale** enters carrying a stack of religious books about witchcraft. He seems eager to flex his authority. **Proctor** departs, but not before saying he's heard Hale is a sensible man and that he hopes he'll bring some sense to Salem. Hale examines **Betty**, but when **Putnam** mentions witchcraft Hale stops him. Hale says that the mark of the devil is clear. He asks them all to agree not to push the issue of witchcraft if he finds no evidence. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Putnam**, **Mrs. Putnam**, and **Parris** tell **Hale** of the recent events. Hale and **Rebecca** are shocked Mrs. Putnam would send her child to commune with spirits, but Mrs. Putnam shouts that she won't allow Rebecca to judge her. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| As **Hale** takes out a book about witchcraft and prepares to examine **Betty** further, **Rebecca** departs, clearly dismissing all this fuss as foolish. **Giles** interrupts. He asks Hale why his wife Martha reads books that she refuses to show him. Hale says they'll speak about it later, and gets to work. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Betty** doesn't respond to **Hale**'s question, so he turns to **Abigail**. She repeats that they were only dancing. When **Parris** mentions he saw them dancing around a kettle, Abigail says the kettle just held soup. Parris then says he thought he saw movement in the soup. Abigail says a frog jumped into the soup. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| Troubled, **Hale** asks **Abigail** if she conjured the devil. Abigail says **Tituba** did. As **Mrs. Putnam** goes to get Tituba, Hale asks Abigail several questions: did she feel the devil's presence, did she drink from the kettle, did she sell herself to the devil? Abigail denies everything. As soon as Tituba enters, however, Abigail screams that Tituba made her do it, that Tituba made her drink blood. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Tituba** responds that **Abigail** begged her to conjure. But Abigail says Tituba often "sends her spirit out" and makes Abigail laugh at prayer in church. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |

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| **Hale** asks **Tituba** when she made a "compact with the devil." Tituba says she never has. **Parris** threatens to whip her to death unless she confesses. **Putnam** yells that she should be hanged. Tituba screams in terror that she didn't want to work for the devil, but he forced her. She says many witches exist in Salem. Hale and Parris ask if she's seen them. Tituba says yes. Putnam asks: was it **Sarah Good**, or maybe **Mrs. Osburn**? Tituba hesitates, but Hale tells Tituba not to fear: if she confesses whom she saw, she will be blessed. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Tituba** identifies **Sarah Good** and **Mrs. Osburn** as other witches. **Mrs. Putnam** shouts that she knew it! Osburn was the midwife at the births of three of her dead babies. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| Suddenly **Abigail** stands up and shouts that she too wants to confess, to return to God. She starts chanting names of women she's seen with the devil. Betty wakes and begins to chant names too. **Parris**, **Putnam**, and **Hale** call for the town marshal as the girls scream out the names of witch after witch. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |

**Key Quotes Analysis - Act 1**

**Directions:** Read each quote below and identify its speaker and the character(s) who relate to it. Then, circle the theme(s) listed in the Themes Key that apply to each quote. have no related characters. In that case it is fine to leave the “Related character(s)” field blank.

**Themes Key**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | Puritanism and Individuality |
| 2 | Hysteria |
| 3 | The Danger of Ideology |
| 4 | Reputation and Integrity |

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| There are wheels within wheels in this village, and fires within fires! | Speakers: |
| Related character(s): |
| Related Themes:

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| I have trouble enough without I come five mile to hear him preach only hellfire and bloody damnation. Take it to heart, Mr. Parris. There are many others who stay away from church these days because you hardly ever mention God any more. | Speakers: |
| Related character(s): |
| Related Themes:

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| I look for John Proctor that took me from my sleep and put knowledge in my heart! I never knew what pretense Salem was, I never knew the lying lessons I was taught by all these Christian women and their covenanted men! And now you bid me tear the light out of my eyes? I will not, I cannot! You loved me, John Proctor, and whatever sin it is, you love me yet! | Speakers: |
| Related character(s): |
| Related Themes:

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| I want to open myself! . . . I want the light of God, I want the sweet love of Jesus! I danced for the Devil; I saw him, I wrote in his book; I go back to Jesus; I kiss His hand. I saw Sarah Good with the Devil! I saw Goody Osburn with the Devil! I saw Bridget Bishop with the Devil! | Speakers: |
| Related character(s): |
| Related Themes:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

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**­Close Reading Organizer - Act 2**

**Directions:** Read each summary entry and think about which themes listed in the Themes Key apply to it, then color in those themes in the Theme Tracker. Next, write a few sentences of Analysis to explain how the themes you chose apply to each summary section.

**Themes Key**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | Puritanism and Individuality |
| 2 | Hysteria |
| 3 | The Danger of Ideology |
| 4 | Reputation and Integrity |

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Summary** | **Theme Tracker** | **Your Analysis** |
| Eight days later, **John Proctor** returns home late from planting the fields. He and **Elizabeth** talk about the coming crop as he eats the dinner she prepared for him. A sense of separation exists between them. Proctor asks his wife what's wrong. She says he was out so late she thought he might have gone into Salem. Proctor ignores the implications of her comment. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Elizabeth** continues: **Mary Warren** is in town, as an official of the court. **Proctor** is astonished: what court? Elizabeth explains: judges have been sent up from Boston to try people for witchcraft. Fourteen people are in jail, and will be hanged unless they confess. Proctor can't believe it, but Elizabeth assures him it's true: Abigail leads the other girls in identifying witches. She urges a resistant Proctor to go to the court and tell the judges what **Abigail** told him: that it was mischief, not witchcraft. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |

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| As **Elizabeth** continues to push **Proctor** to go to the judges, it comes out that he was alone with **Abigail** at **Parris**'s house. Proctor had left that part out when he told Elizabeth the story earlier. Elizabeth is hurt and angry, while Proctor quickly becomes furious that his wife is still suspicious of him, even after he confessed his affair and ended it. He tells her to stop judging him. Elizabeth responds that she's not judging him: he's judging himself. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Mary Warren** enters. **Proctor**, already angry, threatens to whip her for disobeying his order not to go to town that day. Mary does not resist. Instead she goes to **Elizabeth** and gives her a poppet (a doll) that she sewed for her during the court proceedings. Elizabeth, though puzzled by this odd gift, accepts it. As Mary heads up to bed, Proctor asks if it's true that fourteen people are in jail. Mary says that now thirty-nine are in jail: Goody Osburn has been convicted and will hang, while **Sarah Good** confessed to witchcraft and thereby saved herself. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Proctor** says that **Sarah Good** is just a "jabberer." But **Mary** says that Good "sent her spirit out" during the trial to try and choke the girls accusing her. Mary adds that she now realizes Good had tried to kill her in the past: whenever Good came begging and Mary turned her away, Good would mumble, and one time Mary felt extremely sick just afterwards. Mary adds that **Judge Hathorne** asked Sarah Good what she mumbled, and Sarah Good said she was reciting the Ten Commandments. But when Hathorne asked her to recite them, she didn't know even one. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Proctor** considers this weak evidence and tells **Mary** not to go to town again. Mary refuses. When Proctor moves to whip her, Mary shouts that she saved **Elizabeth**'s life: Elizabeth was accused of witchcraft, but Mary said she'd seen no sign of it in her time living with the Proctors, so the court dismissed the charge. Elizabeth asks who accused her, but Mary refuses to say and goes to bed. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Proctor** and **Elizabeth** know **Abigail** is behind the accusation. Elizabeth says Abigail wants to replace her as Proctor's wife. She tells him to go speak to her, to make it clear to Abigail that she'll never take Elizabeth's place. Proctor agrees to go, but is still angry that his wife doesn't trust him. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Hale** appears at the door, startling both **Elizabeth** and **Proctor**. Hale says that without the court's authority he's visiting each of the families "somewhat mentioned" in the trial to try to get a sense of them. He's just come from **Rebecca Nurse**'s house. Proctor and Elizabeth are shocked. Rebecca Nurse is well known as the most religious person in Salem. Hale says the devil can tempt anyone, but nonetheless says he's certain Rebecca won't be charged. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |

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| **Hale** asks some questions about the "Christian character" of the house. He asks why the Proctors don't often go to church, and why only two of their three sons are baptized. **Proctor** explains he doesn't see the "light of God" in **Parri**s. Hale says that such a thing is not for Proctor to decide: Parris is an ordained minister, therefore he has the "light of God." Hale also asks Proctor to recite the ten commandments. Proctor gets nine of ten, forgetting the one against adultery. The missed commandment troubles Hale, and he gets up to go. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| Just as **Hale** is about to leave, **Elizabeth** persuades **Proctor** to speak up about **Abigail**. The news shakes Hale, who points out that many have confessed. Proctor counters by pointing out that they've confessed to save themselves from certain death. This realization has troubled Hale too, but he's avoided facing it until now. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Giles Corey** and **Francis Nurse** appear in Proctor's doorway with the news that their wives, **Martha** and **Rebecca**, have been charged and imprisoned. Rebecca was charged with the murder of **Mrs. Putnam**'s babies. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| Though troubled, **Hale** defends the court and says it will certainly send **Rebecca** home. Yet Hale has no answer when **Corey** says his wife was charged by a man named Walcott as retribution for once buying a pig from her that soon died. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |

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| **Ezekiel Cheever** and **Marshal Herrick** appear at the Proctors' door with an arrest warrant for **Elizabeth**. Cheever also asks Elizabeth to hand over any poppets (dolls) in the house. Elizabeth says she's had no poppets since she was a little girl, but Cheever notices the poppet **Mary** gave her. As Elizabeth goes to get Mary to explain, Cheever discovers a needle stuck in the poppet's belly—just that night **Abigail** fell screaming to the floor, and a needle was discovered stuck into her skin. Abigail said Elizabeth's spirit pushed in the needle. Mary tells Cheever she sewed the poppet and stored the needle in it. Cheever is unconvinced. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Proctor** angrily rips up the warrant and orders Cheever and Herrick to leave his house, but **Herrick** and **Cheever** have nine men outside and take **Elizabeth**. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Hale** assures **Proctor** that the court will recognize **Elizabeth**'s innocence, and promises that he will testify in her favor. He insists, however, that recent events in Salem must have some basis in fact. Hale leaves. **Corey** and **Nurse** soon follow. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| When they're alone, **Proctor** tells **Mary** she will testify against **Abigail** in court tomorrow. Mary says that Abigail will charge Proctor with lechery (excessive and indulgent sexual behavior) if he tries to reveal her lies. Proctor says only that then he and Abigail will "slide into their pit together." Terrified, Mary sobs that she can't testify. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |

**Key Quotes Analysis - Act 2**

**Directions:** Read each quote below and identify its speaker and the character(s) who relate to it. Then, circle the theme(s) listed in the Themes Key that apply to each quote. Some quotes may lack a direct speaker (such as if the quote is an unnamed narrator) or have no related characters. In those cases it is fine to leave the “Speaker” or “Related character(s)” fields blank.

**Themes Key**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | Puritanism and Individuality |
| 2 | Hysteria |
| 3 | The Danger of Ideology |
| 4 | Reputation and Integrity |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| I'll plead no more! I see now your spirit twists around the single error of my life, and I will never tear it free! | Speakers: |
| Related character(s): |
| Related Themes:

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| I like it not that Mr. Parris should lay his hand upon my baby. I see no light of God in that man. I'll not conceal it. | Speakers: |
| Related character(s): |
| Related Themes:

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| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

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| I have seen too many frightful proofs in court—the Devil is alive in Salem, and we dare not quail to follow wherever the accusing finger points! | Speakers: |
| Related character(s): |
| Related Themes:

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| I'll tell you what's walking Salem—vengeance is walking Salem. We are what we always were in Salem, but now the little crazy children are jangling the keys of the kingdom, and common vengeance writes the law! This warrant's vengeance! I'll not give my wife to vengeance! | Speakers: |
| Related character(s): |
| Related Themes:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

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**Close Reading Organizer - Act 3**

**Directions:** Read each summary entry and think about which themes listed in the Themes Key apply to it, then color in those themes in the Theme Tracker. Next, write a few sentences of Analysis to explain how the themes you chose apply to each summary section.

**Themes Key**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | Puritanism and Individuality |
| 2 | Hysteria |
| 3 | The Danger of Ideology |
| 4 | Reputation and Integrity |

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Summary** | **Theme Tracker** | **Your Analysis** |
| Offstage, **Judge Hathorne** and **Deputy Governor Danforth** question **Martha Corey**. **Giles Corey** suddenly shouts that he has evidence that **Thomas Putnam** is using the trials to get more land. Corey is dragged from the courtroom (and onto the stage), followed by **Francis Nurse**, **Hale**, **Parris**, Hathorne, and Danforth. Hathorne and Danforth are furious that Corey would disrupt and try to influence the court. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Francis Nurse** steps forward. **Danforth** says that he's only heard good things about Nurse's character and is amazed to see him in such an "uproar." **Hathorne** wants to arrest them all for contempt of court. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Nurse** says they have proof the girls are frauds. **Proctor** and **Mary Warren** come forward. **Parris** tells **Danforth** that Proctor causes "mischief," while **Hale** begs Danforth to hear the evidence. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |

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| **Proctor** tells **Danforth** that **Mary** is prepared to testify she never saw any spirits. **Parris** shouts that Proctor has come to overthrow the court, but Danforth silences him. Terrified and barely able to speak, Mary steps forward and says that the girls were only pretending to see spirits. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Danforth**, shocked, considers whether to accept this testimony in court. **Proctor** assures him his evidence is valid, but **Ezekiel Cheever** mentions that Proctor earlier ripped up the court's warrant, and **Parris** adds that Proctor seldom comes to church. **Hale** argues that such evidence hardly justifies considering Proctor a threat to the court. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| After a brief conference with **Hathorne**, **Danforth** informs **Proctor** that **Elizabeth** is pregnant, and therefore can't be hanged. He asks if Proctor will now let the proceedings go on. Proctor replies that he can't stand by: many of the condemned are his friends. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Danforth** agrees to hear the evidence. First, **Proctor** shows him a petition signed by 91 landowners declaring their good opinions of **Elizabeth**, **Rebecca Nurse**, and **Martha Corey**. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Parris** declares this an attack on the court. **Hale** questions why all attempts at defense are called attacks on the court. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Danforth** decides the landowners must be questioned, which infuriates **Nurse**, who had promised them they would not be implicated. But Danforth says the people will not be harmed if innocent, and that everyone must be either with the court or against it. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| Next, **Corey** provides a deposition that quotes a witness who heard **Thomas Putnam** say he had his daughter charge a man with witchcraft in order to get his land. Danforth asks for the witness's name, but Corey refuses to give the name, for fear the man will be treated like the signers of the petition. **Hale** observes that there's a great fear of the court in Salem. But **Danforth** says this fear is evidence of a plot against Christianity in Salem, and has Corey arrested for contempt of court. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Proctor** brings **Mary** forward. **Hale** says this argument is so important **Danforth** should let a lawyer present it to him. Danforth takes this as an insult to his ability to administer justice, and says that lawyers are unnecessary in cases where the only evidence is the testimony of the victims. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Danforth** questions **Mary**. She's frightened, but tells Danforth that the other girls are lying. The girls are brought out to face Mary. **Abigail** denies the charge, but **Proctor** says Abigail has often laughed at prayer, and that **Abigail** and the other girls frequently danced in the woods. **Parris** is forced to admit he saw them dancing. Danforth had not heard this before, and begins to doubt. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Hathorne** comes up with an idea: if **Mary** was pretending to see spirits and faint during the trial, she could do the same now. But Mary can't. She explains: before, when she was surrounded by screaming girls and judges who seemed to believe in the spirits, she thought she actually saw spirits, and so could faint. Now she realizes she never saw them, and can't faint. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Danforth** seems to believe **Mary** and turns back to question **Abigail**, but Abigail shudders and claims to feel a cold wind. The other girls follow suit. They say **Mary** is sending her spirit to attack them. Furious, **Proctor** calls Abigail a whore. Proctor admits his affair with Abigail and says **Elizabeth** dismissed her because of it. Abigail denies it, but Proctor says he would not soil his own honor for no reason. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Danforth** sends for **Elizabeth**, whom **Proctor** says will never lie. Danforth instructs everyone to remain absolutely still and silent and to make no signs of any sort. When Elizabeth enters, Danforth asks her whether **Abigail** and Proctor had an affair. Elizabeth hesitates, agonizing, then says no. As she's being led away, Proctor shouts out that he confessed. Elizabeth cries out in despair. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Hale** says he believes **Proctor**, and that **Elizabeth** was just trying to protect his reputation, but **Danforth** will not hear it. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Abigail** screams again that **Mary**'s spirit is attacking her. The girls start repeating whatever Mary says. Mary begs them to stop. **Danforth** threatens Mary that she'll hang unless she confesses. Mary runs to Abigail and says that Proctor is allied with the devil. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Danforth** demands that **Proctor** confess his allegiance to Hell. In response, Proctor says God is dead. Proctor then condemns himself as a devil, because he resisted fighting against what he knew to be false. He also calls Danforth a devil for allowing a fraud to be perpetrated. Danforth orders Proctor arrested. Hale denounces the court. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |

**Key Quotes Analysis - Act 3**

**Directions:** Read each quote below and identify its speaker and the character(s) who relate to it. Then, circle the theme(s) listed in the Themes Key that apply to each quote. Some quotes may lack a direct speaker (such as if the quote is an unnamed narrator) or have no related characters. In those cases it is fine to leave the “Speaker” or “Related character(s)” fields blank.

**Themes Key**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | Puritanism and Individuality |
| 2 | Hysteria |
| 3 | The Danger of Ideology |
| 4 | Reputation and Integrity |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Do you take it upon yourself to determine what this court shall believe and what it shall set aside? . . . .This is the highest court of the supreme government of this province, do you know it? | Speakers: |
| Related character(s): |
| Related Themes:

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| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

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| You must understand, sir, that a person is either with this court or he must be counted against it, there be no road between. This is a sharp time, now, a precise time—we live no longer in the dusky afternoon when evil mixed itself with good and befuddled the world. Now, by God's grace, the shining sun is up, and them that fear not light will surely praise it. | Speakers: |
| Related character(s): |
| Related Themes:

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| A man may think God sleeps, but God sees everything, I know it now. I beg you, sir, I beg you—see her what she is . . . She thinks to dance with me on my wife's grave! And well she might, for I thought of her softly. God help me, I lusted, and there is a promise in such sweat. But it is a whore's vengeance. | Speakers: |
| Related character(s): |
| Related Themes:

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| A fire, a fire is burning! I hear the boot of Lucifer, I see his filthy face! And it is my face, and yours, Danforth! For them that quail to bring men out of ignorance, as I have quailed, and as you quail now when you know in all your black hearts that this be fraud—God damns our kind especially, and we will burn, we will burn together! | Speakers: |
| Related character(s): |
| Related Themes:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

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**Close Reading Organizer - Act 4**

**Directions:** Read each summary entry and think about which themes listed in the Themes Key apply to it, then color in those themes in the Theme Tracker. Next, write a few sentences of Analysis to explain how the themes you chose apply to each summary section.

**Themes Key**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | Puritanism and Individuality |
| 2 | Hysteria |
| 3 | The Danger of Ideology |
| 4 | Reputation and Integrity |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Summary** | **Theme Tracker** | **Your Analysis** |
| In a cell in the Salem prison a few months later, **Sarah Good** and **Tituba** think that the devil has come to take them to Barbados. But it's just **Marshal Herrick**, come to move them to a different cell. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Hathorne** and **Danforth** enter. They wonder where **Parris** is and are troubled to learn from **Herrick** that he's with **Hale**, visiting those condemned to hang that morning, including **Proctor** and **Rebecca Nurse**. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Parris** enters. To **Danforth** and **Hathorne**'s questions about **Hale**, he answers that Hale has returned to try to convince those convicted of witchcraft to confess their crimes and save their lives. Danforth is surprised and pleased. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |

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| After a moment's indecision, **Parris** reveals that **Abigail** robbed him of thirty-one pounds and then ran off with **Mercy Lewis**. He thinks they left after hearing about a revolt against the witch trials in the nearby town of Andover. Parris fears a similar riot in Salem now that people with social influence, like **Rebecca** and **Proctor**, are scheduled to hang. He begs to postpone the hangings. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Danforth** refuses to postpone the executions. He does say, however, that he's willing to work until dawn to convince one of the convicted to confess, since a confession would make those who don't confess look like liars. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Danforth**'s position doesn't satisfy **Parris**. He's received threats regarding his part in the trials and fears for his safety. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Hale** enters, demanding pardons for the convicted. **Danforth** says 12 others have already been hanged for the same charge; pardons for the remaining convicts would therefore be unjust and crack the voice of God's law with "whimpering." Hale says a week's postponement would seem like mercy to the public, not weakness. Danforth doesn't listen. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Danforth** does wonder, however, if they might be able to get **Proctor** to confess, since **Elizabeth** is now well along in her pregnancy. As **Marshal Herrick** goes to get Elizabeth, Danforth asks **Hale** why he returned to Salem. Hale replies bitterly that he came to convince Christians to lie and confess to crimes they did not commit in order to save their lives. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |

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| **Elizabeth** enters. **Hale** tells her he will consider himself **Proctor**'s murderer if Proctor is hanged. Hale begs Elizabeth to convince Proctor to lie, to give a false confession, in order to save himself. He says that life is God's great gift, and no belief or religion should be followed if it harms life. **Danforth** and **Hathorne** disagree. Hale shouts that the confession must be a lie since Proctor is innocent. Elizabeth agrees to speak with Proctor. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Proctor** is brought from his cell and the others leave so he can spend some time alone with **Elizabeth**. She tells him that hundreds have confessed, though **Rebecca** has not. She also adds that **Corey** refused to speak at all, in accordance with a legal loophole that ensured his farm would pass to his sons if he remained silent. Corey died while being pressed—stone after stone was laid on him to make him speak, but all he said was, "More weight." | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Proctor** asks what **Elizabeth** would think if he confessed. Unlike **Rebecca** and **Martha Corey**, who refuse to lie and damn themselves, Proctor considers himself a liar already because of his affair with Abigail. So what's one more lie to save his life? Elizabeth says she can't judge him. She says that regardless of what he does, he'll be a good man. She adds that she has sins of her own: her coldness drove him to adultery. She tells Proctor to forgive himself. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |

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| **Proctor** decides to confess, though he knows he shouldn't. When they learn the news, **Danforth**, **Hathorne**, and **Parris** are overjoyed. They ask **Ezekiel Cheever** to write down Proctor's confession. **Proctor** asks why it must be written down. To post on the church door, they tell him. They ask Proctor if he's seen the devil. He says yes. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| They bring in **Rebecca** in hopes that **Proctor**'s confession will sway her. She says a confession would be a lie, and prays for Proctor's soul. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Danforth** asks **Proctor** if he's seen **Rebecca** with the devil. Proctor says he hasn't. Danforth then asks if he's seen anyone with the devil. Proctor again says no. **Hale** and **Parris** convince Danforth to accept Proctor's confession anyway. Under pressure from Danforth, Proctor signs the confession. Yet when Danforth reaches for the confession, Proctor grabs it and refuses to hand it over. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Danforth** says the village must have proof. **Proctor** shouts that God has the proof, and that's enough. When Danforth persists, Proctor shouts that he cannot bear to sign his name to lies, or through his confession to soil the good names of his friends who refused to lie in order to save themselves. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| **Danforth** says if the confession is a lie, then it is no confession at all. **Proctor** rips the confession to pieces. Danforth orders **Herrick** to take Proctor to the gallows. **Parris** and **Hale** beg **Elizabeth** to speak to Proctor. But she says Proctor has his goodness back now, and refuses. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |

**Key Quotes Analysis - Act 4**

**Directions:** Read each quote below and identify its speaker and the character(s) who relate to it. Then, circle the theme(s) listed in the Themes Key that apply to each quote. Some quotes may lack a direct speaker (such as if the quote is an unnamed narrator) or have no related characters. In those cases it is fine to leave the “Speaker” or “Related character(s)” fields blank.

**Themes Key**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | Puritanism and Individuality |
| 2 | Hysteria |
| 3 | The Danger of Ideology |
| 4 | Reputation and Integrity |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| It is mistaken law that leads you to sacrifice. Life, woman, life is God's most precious gift; no principle, however glorious, may justify the taking of it . . ..it may well be God damns a liar less than he that throws his life away for pride. | Speakers: |
| Related character(s): |
| Related Themes:

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| I do think I see some shred of goodness in John Proctor. Not enough to weave a banner with, but white enough to keep it from such dogs. Give them no tear! Tears pleasure them! Show honor now, show a stony heart and sink them with it! | Speakers: |
| Related character(s): |
| Related Themes:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

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| --- | --- |
| Because it is my name! Because I cannot have another in my life! Because I lie and sign myself to lies! Because I am not worth the dust on the feet of them that hang! How may I live without my name? I have given you my soul; leave me my name! | Speakers: |
| Related character(s): |
| Related Themes:

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| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

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**Them****es**

***Evidence and Analysis***

**Directions:** A theme is a concept or idea that an author explores in a literary work. For each theme, collect 5-6 details from *The Crucible* (such as specific plot points, symbols, or quotes) that the author uses to explore that theme and enter them in the Evidence section of the table.

Next, use the evidence you’ve collected to write a Theme Description that explains the role of the theme in *The Crucible*. Your Theme Description should be 1-2 paragraphs TYPED. Here are some questions to consider as you write each Theme Description:

* How do the ideas or actions of the main characters reflect different aspects of the theme?
* Does the theme develop or change over the course of *The Crucible*? If so, how?
* If your evidence includes symbols, explain how the author uses those symbols to explore the theme.
* If your evidence includes specific quotes from the text, explain how those quotes provide examples of how the theme applies to *The Crucible*?

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| --- | --- |
| **Puritanism and Individuality** |  |
| **Evidence** |
| 1. | 2. | 3. |
| 4. | 5. | 6. |

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| --- |
| **Theme Description** |
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| --- | --- |
| **Hysteria** |  |
| **Evidence** |
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| 4. | 5. | 6. |

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| **Theme Description** |
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| --- | --- |
| **The Danger of Ideology** |  |
| **Evidence** |
| 1. | 2. | 3. |
| 4. | 5. | 6. |

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| **Theme Description** |
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| --- | --- |
| **Reputation and Integrity** |  |
| **Evidence** |
| 1. | 2. | 3. |
| 4. | 5. | 6. |

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| **Theme Description** |
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