

The Crucible - Quick Guide to WHATSGOINGON (up until the Courtroom Scene...

- Salem in the late 1600s was a **PURITAN** community (strictly religious). They followed the word of the bible by the word (took it literally).
- People loved **GOD**, feared the **DEVIL** - believed strongly in both.
- Being a small village, Salem was prone to **GOSSIP** and rumour; everybody knew everybody else's business. (It is easy to reduce gossip into bitter lies that stick like mud to a person's good name)
- **ABIGAIL WILLIAMS**, for fear of getting punished severely for participating in foolish witchcraft with the other young girls of the village, starts a **RUMOUR** that witches (starting with the slave **TITUBA**) are possessing the girls. She bullies the others into agreeing.
- Suddenly, the young girls start accusing village people of being witches. **HYSTERIA** erupts as many people accuse (and get accused) others of being witches.
- Accusations start to become based on nothing more than personalities - people who are different, or those who are disliked by others are accused.
- **JOHN PROCTOR** has previously had an affair with **ABIGAIL WILLIAMS**. It is well finished and Proctor (an honest and good man) is trying to repair his marriage to his wife, **ELIZABETH**.
- Abigail still loves Proctor (a crush more than anything), and would like nothing more than to **REPLACE** Elizabeth Proctor in John's affections.
- Amongst the **HYSTERIA**, **REVEREND HALE**, an expert on witchcraft, decides that witches **DO NOT** exist in Salem - it is a hoax. Now however, Court Judges are in town, no one will listen to him - the villagers want blood, hangings!
- Proctor's wife gets accused of witchcraft by Abigail.
- Proctor demands that his house-keeper, **MARY WARREN** tells the court that she **KNOWS** Abigail and the girls **ARE LYING**. Mary **AGREES TO**.

THE COURT ROOM!

- **ABI** and the girls are **SCARED!** Their harmless stunt at the start of the play has gotten out of hand. If they admit to trying to practise witchcraft, they will be severely punished (possibly hanged), **BUT** by keeping quiet they can see that **INNOCENTS** are getting hanged!!!
- **MARY WARREN SAYS THEY'RE LYING!!!**

Big question is: **DO THEY CONFESS AND ACCEPT THEIR PUNISHMENTS**
OR
DO THEY CARRY ON LYING LIKE COWARDS!!!!???