

CRUCIBLE - RESPONSE TO TEXT

RELATIONSHIPS

Key Statement:

Dysfunctional relationships start the hysteria, but also fuel the play onto its tragic conclusion.

1. JOHN PROCTOR & ABIGAIL WILLIAMS

Illicit & adulterous relationship. Nothing good can come of it. Though it has ended, causes Proctor, the protagonist, much shame – INTERNAL STRUGGLE with his conscience. He has been unfaithful to his “good and honest” wife Elizabeth, AND he has broken one of the ten commandments from the bible. This affair is a dark secret that Proctor, who values his good name in a town of gossip, is keen to keep secret.

Abigail Williams, the “strikingly beautiful” 16 yr old antagonist, still ‘loves’ Proctor, though hers is more of a lust/crush. Is unable to see that the affair has ended. Knows that news of her “harlotry” will ruin her reputation in a small town – is desperate to keep this a secret.

2. JOHN & ELIZABETH PROCTOR

Theirs is a broken relationship. Try as they might this couple is unable to mend the damage during the course of the play, a fact that upsets Proctor immensely. This troubled marriage is the cause for much pity from an audience, watching Elizabeth, a good woman, struggle to maintain her life in the face of an adulterous husband brings much pathos...

VILLAGE OF SALEM

All over the town characters within the play argue and bicker over matters, Parris over the terms of his jobs, the Putnams over who is responsible for the deaths of their babies. This tense atmosphere causes distrust amongst many characters and makes it easier for hysteria and accusations to grip the town.

Can conclude that throughout the town there is little evidence of harmony – a negative event such as accusation of witches was never going to be solved easily...