

The Crucible

Many characters have hidden agendas in Arthur Miller's play. Considering the motivations of some of the key characters will enrich your understanding of the plot.

The Victimizers

Name	Personality Trait	Motivation (What Each Person Wants)
Ann Putnam	Mournful, haunted, obsessed, confused	Find out who murdered her babies, get even for having almost all her children die in childbirth
Thomas Putnam	Inflated ego, vindictive, bitter	Get even for Parris's election instead of his own brother-in-law, grab land, get the status in society he feels he deserves
Reverend Parris	Paranoid, self-righteous, demanding	Safeguard or increase his stature in Salem, get material goods (deed to preacher's house, gold candlesticks, free firewood), keep his reputation from being hurt by Abby's actions
Abigail Williams	Liar, promiscuous, threatening, bully	Resume her affair with Proctor, save herself from being condemned as a witch (by blaming others), delusions of grandeur (later in the play)

The Victims

Name	Personality Trait	Reason Why Person is Targeted
John Proctor	Natural leader, respected, tortured by guilt over adultery	Doesn't attend church regularly, shows disrespect to Reverend Parris, friend of Coreys and Nurses
Rebecca Nurse	Well-respected, reasonable, angelic	Calms Betty (seen by Putnams as if she is taking back her spell), is friend of Coreys and Proctors, has many children that lived
Goody Proctor	Honest, well-respected, reticent	Abigail wants her dead so she can have John
Giles Corey	Outspoken, stands up for self (taking people to court)	Calls girls frauds, brings complaint against Putnam for telling his daughter to lie in court, friend of Proctors and Nurses Putnam wants his land,