

### Sample Quotation Responses:

On the Crucible test, you will be given a list of at least 15 significant quotations from the play. From the list, you will select any 8 for response. For each quote, you will identify who said it, what the context of the quote is, and why it is significant. Your response should demonstrate a deep understanding of the play, its themes, conflicts, characters, etc. Develop your responses and discuss various significances, if applicable. Below I have provided a couple sample responses to give a clearer idea of what I will be looking for.

**“Now look you, child—if you trafficked with spirits in the forest, I must know it, for surely my enemies will, and they’ll ruin me with it...”**

This was said by Rev. Parris to Abigail in the first act of the play when he is questioning her about the girls’ activities in the woods the previous night. Early on, Parris is revealed to be very self-centered in that he is more concerned about what people will say about him than about the well-being of his daughter Betty, who is lying unconscious on the bed. This quote also relates to the theme of appearance vs. reality because it shows that Rev. Parris knows that Abigail hasn’t told him the entire story about their activities. We also realize early on that there is dissension and conflict in the town (he has many enemies); this dissension will fuel the fire of the witch trials that are to come.

**“I told you the proof—it’s hard proof, hard as rock the judges said.”**

This was said by Mary to John Proctor in Act II when she is telling the Proctors of what has occurred at the court earlier that day. The quote is very ironic because the proof that she refers to—mumbling, saying the commandments, feeling cold chills—is completely hearsay. This demonstrates that the judges are basing their decisions on evidence that cannot be proven; therefore, no one is safe from being brought down by an accusing finger. Miller was paralleling this with the types of evidence that were being used to convict people of being Communists in the days of McCarthyism—hearsay, such as the testimony of former party members. Also, you can tell in this quote that Mary is feeling more important now because she is an “official of the court.” She reports what has happened very matter-of-factly, even though Mr. Proctor had forbidden her to go to the court at all.

**“You think it God's work you should never lose a child, nor grandchild either, and I bury all but one?”**

This is said by Mrs. Putnam to Rebecca Nurse at the beginning of the play. Rebecca has warned Rev. Parris against looking for witches, but Mrs. Putnam (and her husband) pressure him to continue. The quote reveals the main reason for Mrs. Putnam’s eagerness to find witches and the reason for her bitterness. She seeks a reason for her babies’ deaths and will go to any length to find that reason. The quote also foreshadows that Mrs. Putnam will later accuse Rebecca of being a witch for the “supernatural murder” of her children, demonstrating that one reason people accused others was jealousy or revenge rather than truth.