



NOTICE & NOTE

ANALYZE DRAMATIC ELEMENTS

Annotate: Mark details that tell you Danforth feels certain he is doing the right thing.

Analyze: Explain whether Danforth is justified in feeling this way.

- 157 **Danforth** (*glancing down a long list*). How many names are here?
- 158 **Francis**. Ninety-one, Your Excellency.
- 159 **Parris** (*sweating*). These people should be summoned. (Danforth *looks up at him questioningly*.) For questioning.
- 160 **Francis** (*trembling with anger*). Mr. Danforth, I gave them all my word no harm would come to them for signing this.
- 161 **Parris**. This is a clear attack upon the court!
- 162 **Hale** (*to Parris, trying to contain himself*). Is every defense an attack upon the court? Can no one—?
- 163 **Parris**. All innocent and Christian people are happy for the courts in Salem! These people are gloomy for it. (*to Danforth directly*) And I think you will want to know, from each and every one of them, what discontents them with you!
- 164 **Hathorne**. I think they ought to be examined, sir.
- 165 **Danforth**. It is not necessarily an attack, I think. Yet—
- 166 **Francis**. These are all covenanted Christians, sir.
- 167 **Danforth**. Then I am sure they may have nothing to fear. (*hands Cheever the paper*) Mr. Cheever, have warrants drawn for all of these—arrest for examination. (*to Proctor*) Now, Mister, what other information do you have for us? (*Francis is still standing, horrified*.) You may sit, Mr. Nurse.
- 168 **Francis**. I have brought trouble on these people; I have—
- 169 **Danforth**. No, old man, you have not hurt these people if they are of good conscience. But 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. I hope you will be one of those. (*Mary Warren suddenly sobs*.) She's not hearty,⁵ I see.
- 170 **Proctor**. No, she's not, sir. (*to Mary, bending to her, holding her hand, quietly*) Now remember what the angel Raphael said to the boy Tobias.⁶ Remember it.
- 171 **Mary Warren** (*hardly audible*). Aye.
- 172 **Proctor**. "Do that which is good, and no harm shall come to thee."
- 173 **Mary Warren**. Aye.
- 174 **Danforth**. Come, man, we wait you.
- 175 (*Marshal Herrick returns, and takes his post at the door*.)
- 176 **Giles**. John, my deposition, give him mine.

⁵ hearty: well.

⁶ what the angel said . . . Tobias: In the Book of Tobit in the Apocrypha, Tobit's son Tobias cured his father's blindness with the help of the angel Raphael.



- 177 **Proctor.** Aye. (*He hands Danforth another paper.*) This is Mr. Corey's deposition.
- 178 **Danforth.** Oh? (*He looks down at it. Now Hathorne comes behind him and reads with him.*)
- 179 **Hathorne** (*suspiciously*). What lawyer drew this, Corey?
- 180 **Giles.** You know I never hired a lawyer in my life, Hathorne.
- 181 **Danforth** (*finishing the reading*). It is very well phrased. My compliments. Mr. Parris, if Mr. Putnam is in the court, will you bring him in? (*Hathorne takes the deposition, and walks to the window with it. Parris goes into the court.*) You have no legal training, Mr. Corey?
- 182 **Giles** (*very pleased*). I have the best, sir—I am thirty-three time in court in my life. And always plaintiff, too.
- 183 **Danforth.** Oh, then you're much put-upon.
- 184 **Giles.** I am never put-upon; I know my rights, sir, and I will have them. You know, your father tried a case of mine—might be thirty-five year ago, I think.
- 185 **Danforth.** Indeed.
- 186 **Giles.** He never spoke to you of it?
- 187 **Danforth.** No, I cannot recall it.
- 188 **Giles.** That's strange, he give me nine pound damages. He were a fair judge, your father. Y'see, I had a white mare that time, and this fellow come to borrow the mare—(*Enter Parris with Thomas Putnam. When he sees Putnam, Giles' ease goes; he is hard.*) Aye, there he is.
- 189 **Danforth.** Mr. Putnam, I have here an accusation by Mr. Corey against you. He states that you coldly prompted your daughter to cry witchery upon George Jacobs that is now in jail.
- 190 **Putnam.** It is a lie.
- 191 **Danforth** (*turning to Giles*). Mr. Putnam states your charge is a lie. What say you to that?
- 192 **Giles** (*furious, his fists clenched*). A fart on Thomas Putnam, that is what I say to that!
- 193 **Danforth.** What proof do you submit for your charge, sir?
- 194 **Giles.** My proof is there! (*pointing to the paper*) If Jacobs hangs for a witch he forfeit up his property—that's law! And there is none but Putnam with the coin to buy so great a piece. This man is killing his neighbors for their land!
- 195 **Danforth.** But proof, sir, proof.
- 196 **Giles** (*pointing at his deposition*). The proof is there! I have it from an honest man who heard Putnam say it! The day his daughter cried out on Jacobs, he said she'd given him a fair gift of land.
- 197 **Hathorne.** And the name of this man?



NOTICE & NOTE

- 198 **Giles** (*taken aback*). What name?
- 199 **Hathorne**. The man that give you this information.
- 200 **Giles** (*hesitates, then*). Why, I—I cannot give you his name.
- 201 **Hathorne**. And why not?
- 202 **Giles** (*hesitates, then bursts out*). You know well why not! He'll lay in jail if I give his name!
- 203 **Hathorne**. This is contempt of the court, Mr. Danforth!
- 204 **Danforth** (*to avoid that*). You will surely tell us the name.
- 205 **Giles**. I will not give you no name. I mentioned my wife's name once and I'll burn in hell long enough for that. I stand mute.
- 206 **Danforth**. In that case, I have no choice but to arrest you for contempt of this court, do you know that?
- 207 **Giles**. This is a hearing; you cannot clap me for contempt of a hearing.
- 208 **Danforth**. Oh, it is a proper lawyer!⁷ Do you wish me to declare the court in full session here? Or will you give me good reply?
- 209 **Giles** (*faltering*). I cannot give you no name, sir, I cannot.
- 210 **Danforth**. You are a foolish old man. Mr. Cheever, begin the record. The court is now in session. I ask you, Mr. Corey—
- 211 **Proctor** (*breaking in*). Your Honor—he has the story in confidence, sir, and he—
- 212 **Parris**. The Devil lives on such confidences! (*to Danforth*) Without confidences there could be no conspiracy, Your Honor!
- 213 **Hathorne**. I think it must be broken, sir.
- 214 **Danforth** (*to Giles*). Old man, if your informant tells the truth let him come here openly like a decent man. But if he hide in anonymity I must know why. Now sir, the government and central church demand of you the name of him who reported Mr. Thomas Putnam a common murderer.
- 215 **Hale**. Excellency—
- 216 **Danforth**. Mr. Hale.
- 217 **Hale**. We cannot blink it more. There is a prodigious fear of this court in the country—
- 218 **Danforth**. Then there is a prodigious guilt in the country. Are *you* afraid to be questioned here?
- 219 **Hale**. I may only fear the Lord, sir, but there is fear in the country nevertheless.

⁷ Oh, . . . lawyer: Oh, he thinks he is a real lawyer.



- 220 **Danforth** (*angered now*). Reproach me not with the fear in the country; there is fear in the country because there is a moving⁸ plot to topple Christ in the country!
- 221 **Hale**. But it does not follow that everyone accused is part of it.
- 222 **Danforth**. No uncorrupted man may fear this court, Mr. Hale! None! (*to Giles*) You are under arrest in contempt of this court. Now sit you down and take counsel with yourself, or you will be set in the jail until you decide to answer all questions.
- 223 (*Giles Corey makes a rush for Putnam. Proctor lunges and holds him.*)
- 224 **Proctor**. No, Giles!
- 225 **Giles** (*over Proctor's shoulder at Putnam*). I'll cut your throat, Putnam, I'll kill you yet!
- 226 **Proctor** (*forcing him into a chair*). Peace, Giles, peace. (*releasing him*) We'll prove ourselves. Now we will. (*He starts to turn to Danforth.*)
- 227 **Giles**. Say nothin' more, John. (*pointing at Danforth*) He's only playin' you! He means to hang us all!
- 228 (*Mary Warren bursts into sobs.*)
- 229 **Danforth**. This is a court of law, Mister. I'll have no effrontery here!
- 230 **Proctor**. Forgive him, sir, for his old age. Peace, Giles, we'll prove it all now. (*He lifts up Mary's chin.*) You cannot weep, Mary. Remember the angel, what he say to the boy. Hold to it, now; there is your rock. (*Mary quiets. He takes out a paper, and turns to Danforth.*) This is Mary Warren's deposition. I—I would ask you remember, sir, while you read it, that until two week ago she were no different than the other children are today. (*He is speaking reasonably, restraining all his fears, his anger, his anxiety.*) You saw her scream, she howled, she swore familiar spirits choked her; she even testified that Satan, in the form of women now in jail, tried to win her soul away, and then when she refused—
- 231 **Danforth**. We know all this.
- 232 **Proctor**. Aye, sir. She swears now that she never saw Satan; nor any spirit, vague or clear, that Satan may have sent to hurt her. And she declares her friends are lying now.
- 233 (*Proctor starts to hand Danforth the deposition, and Hale comes up to Danforth in a trembling state.*)
- 234 **Hale**. Excellency, a moment. I think this goes to the heart of the matter.
- 235 **Danforth** (*with deep misgivings*). It surely does.
- 236 **Hale**. I cannot say he is an honest man; I know him little. But in all justice, sir, a claim so weighty cannot be argued by a farmer. In God's

⁸ **moving**: active.

ANALYZE DRAMATIC ELEMENTS

Annotate: Mark the stage directions in paragraphs 223–228.

Analyze: What do the stage directions describe? How do they impact your understanding of events?



NOTICE & NOTE

name, sir, stop here; send him home and let him come again with a lawyer—

237 **Danforth** (*patiently*). Now look you, Mr. Hale—

238 **Hale**. Excellency, I have signed seventy-two death warrants; I am a minister of the Lord, and I dare not take a life without there be a proof so immaculate no slightest qualm of conscience may doubt it.

239 **Danforth**. Mr. Hale, you surely do not doubt my justice.

240 **Hale**. I have this morning signed away the soul of Rebecca Nurse, Your Honor. I'll not conceal it, my hand shakes yet as with a wound! I pray you, sir, this argument let lawyers present to you.

241 **Danforth**. Mr. Hale, believe me; for a man of such terrible learning you are most bewildered—I hope you will forgive me. I have been thirty-two year at the bar, sir, and I should be confounded were I called upon to defend these people. Let you consider, now—(*to Proctor and the others*) And I bid you all do likewise. In an ordinary crime, how does one defend the accused? One calls up witnesses to prove his innocence. But witchcraft is *ipso facto*,⁹ on its face and by its nature, an invisible crime, is it not? Therefore, who may possibly be witness to it? The witch and the victim. None other. Now we cannot hope the witch will accuse herself; granted? Therefore, we must rely upon her victims—and they do testify, the children certainly do testify. As for the witches, none will deny that we are most eager for all their confessions. Therefore, what is left for a lawyer to bring out? I think I have made my point. Have I not?

242 **Hale**. But this child claims the girls are not truthful, and if they are not—

243 **Danforth**. That is precisely what I am about to consider, sir. What more may you ask of me? Unless you doubt my probity?¹⁰

244 **Hale** (*defeated*). I surely do not, sir. Let you consider it, then.

245 **Danforth**. And let you put your heart to rest. Her deposition, Mr. Proctor.

246 (*Proctor hands it to him. Hathorne rises, goes beside Danforth, and starts reading. Parris comes to his other side. Danforth looks at John Proctor, then proceeds to read. Hale gets up, finds position near the judge, reads too. Proctor glances at Giles. Francis prays silently, hands pressed together. Cheever waits placidly, the sublime official, dutiful. Mary Warren sobs once. John Proctor touches her head reassuringly. Presently Danforth lifts his eyes, stands up, takes out a kerchief and blows his nose. The others stand aside as he moves in thought toward the window.*)

247 **Parris** (*hardly able to contain his anger and fear*). I should like to question—

⁹ *ipso facto* (Latin): by that very fact.

¹⁰ *doubt my probity*: question my integrity.

ANALYZE DRAMATIC ELEMENTS

Annotate: Mark the stage directions in paragraphs 246–248.

Analyze: Explain how these stage directions move the plot forward by revealing the feelings and attitudes of the characters. Cite evidence from the text in your response.



- 248 **Danforth** (*his first real outburst, in which his contempt for Parris is clear*). Mr. Parris, I bid you be silent! (*He stands in silence, looking out the window. Now, having established that he will set the gait.*)
Mr. Cheever, will you go into the court and bring the children here? (*Cheever gets up and goes out upstage. Danforth now turns to Mary.*)
Mary Warren, how came you to this turnabout? Has Mr. Proctor threatened you for this deposition?
- 249 **Mary Warren**. No, sir.
- 250 **Danforth**. Has he ever threatened you?
- 251 **Mary Warren** (*weaker*). No, sir.
- 252 **Danforth** (*sensing a weakening*). Has he threatened you?
- 253 **Mary Warren**. No, sir.
- 254 **Danforth**. Then you tell me that you sat in my court, callously lying, when you knew that people would hang by your evidence? (*She does not answer.*) Answer me!
- 255 **Mary Warren** (*almost inaudibly*). I did, sir.
- 256 **Danforth**. How were you instructed in your life? Do you not know that God damns all liars? (*She cannot speak.*) Or is it now that you lie?
- 257 **Mary Warren**. No, sir—I am with God now.
- 258 **Danforth**. You are with God now.
- 259 **Mary Warren**. Aye, sir.
- 260 **Danforth** (*containing himself*). I will tell you this—you are either lying now, or you were lying in the court, and in either case you have committed perjury and you will go to jail for it. You cannot lightly say you lied, Mary. Do you know that?
- 261 **Mary Warren**. I cannot lie no more. I am with God, I am with God.
- 262 (*But she breaks into sobs at the thought of it, and the right door opens, and enter Susanna Walcott, Mercy Lewis, Betty Parris, and finally Abigail. Cheever comes to Danforth.*)
- 263 **Cheever**. Ruth Putnam's not in the court, sir, nor the other children.
- 264 **Danforth**. These will be sufficient. Sit you down, children. (*Silently they sit.*) Your friend, Mary Warren, has given us a deposition. In which she swears that she never saw familiar spirits, apparitions, nor any manifest of the Devil. She claims as well that none of you have seen these things either. (*slight pause*) Now, children, this is a court of law. The law, based upon the Bible, and the Bible, writ by Almighty God, forbid the practice of witchcraft, and describe death as the penalty thereof. But likewise, children, the law and Bible damn all bearers of false witness. (*slight pause*) Now then. It does not escape me that this deposition may be devised to blind us; it may well be that Mary Warren has been conquered by Satan, who sends her here to distract our sacred purpose. If so, her neck will break for it. But if she



speak true, I bid you now drop your guile and confess your pretense, for a quick confession will go easier with you. (*pause*) Abigail Williams, rise. (Abigail *slowly rises*.) Is there any truth in this?

265 **Abigail.** No, sir.

266 **Danforth** (*thinks, glances at Mary, then back to Abigail*). Children, a very auger bit¹¹ will now be turned into your souls until your honesty is proved. Will either of you change your positions now, or do you force me to hard questioning?

267 **Abigail.** I have naught to change, sir. She lies.

268 **Danforth** (*to Mary*). You would still go on with this?

269 **Mary Warren** (*faintly*). Aye, sir.

270 **Danforth** (*turning to Abigail*). A poppet were discovered in Mr. Proctor's house, stabbed by a needle. Mary Warren claims that you sat beside her in the court when she made it, and that you saw her make it and witnessed how she herself stuck her needle into it for safe-keeping. What say you to that?

271 **Abigail** (*with a slight note of indignation*). It is a lie, sir.

272 **Danforth** (*after a slight pause*). While you worked for Mr. Proctor, did you see poppets in that house?

273 **Abigail.** Goody Proctor always kept poppets.

274 **Proctor.** Your Honor, my wife never kept no poppets. Mary Warren confesses it was her poppet.

275 **Cheever.** Your Excellency.

276 **Danforth.** Mr. Cheever.

277 **Cheever.** When I spoke with Goody Proctor in that house, she said she never kept no poppets. But she said she did keep poppets when she were a girl.

278 **Proctor.** She has not been a girl these fifteen years, Your Honor.

279 **Hathorne.** But a poppet will keep fifteen years, will it not?

280 **Proctor.** It will keep if it is kept, but Mary Warren swears she never saw no poppets in my house, nor anyone else.

281 **Parris.** Why could there not have been poppets hid where no one ever saw them?

282 **Proctor** (*furiously*). There might also be a dragon with five legs in my house, but no one has ever seen it.

283 **Parris.** We are here, Your Honor, precisely to discover what no one has ever seen.

284 **Proctor.** Mr. Danforth, what profit this girl to turn herself about? What may Mary Warren gain but hard questioning and worse?

¹¹auger (ô'gər) bit: drill.