



- 446 **Proctor.** Lies, lies.
- 447 **Abigail** (*backing further, eyes still fixed above*). Mary, please don't hurt me!
- 448 **Mary Warren** (*to Danforth*). I'm not hurting her!
- 449 **Danforth** (*to Mary Warren*). Why does she see this vision?
- 450 **Mary Warren.** She sees nothin'!
- 451 **Abigail** (*now staring full front as though hypnotized, and mimicking the exact tone of Mary Warren's cry*). She sees nothin'!
- 452 **Mary Warren** (*pleading*). Abby, you mustn't!
- 453 **Abigail and All the Girls** (*all transfixed*). Abby, you mustn't!
- 454 **Mary Warren** (*to all the Girls*). I'm here, I'm here!
- 455 **Girls.** I'm here, I'm here!

### ANALYZE CHARACTERS AND MOTIVATIONS

**Annotate:** Mark examples of repetition in paragraphs 450–471.

**Analyze:** Why do the other girls mimic Mary's dialogue?





## NOTICE & NOTE

- 456 **Danforth** (*horrified*). Mary Warren! Draw back your spirit out of them!
- 457 **Mary Warren**. Mr. Danforth!
- 458 **Girls** (*cutting her off*). Mr. Danforth!
- 459 **Danforth**. Have you compacted with the Devil? Have you?
- 460 **Mary Warren**. Never, never!
- 461 **Girls**. Never, never!
- 462 **Danforth** (*growing hysterical*). Why can they only repeat you?
- 463 **Proctor**. Give me a whip—I'll stop it!
- 464 **Mary Warren**. They're sporting.<sup>15</sup> They—!
- 465 **Girls**. They're sporting!
- 466 **Mary Warren** (*turning on them all hysterically and stamping her feet*). Abby, stop it!
- 467 **Girls** (*stamping their feet*). Abby, stop it!
- 468 **Mary Warren**. Stop it!
- 469 **Girls**. Stop it!
- 470 **Mary Warren** (*screaming it out at the top of her lungs, and raising her fists*). Stop it!!
- 471 **Girls** (*raising their fists*). Stop it!!
- 472 (Mary Warren, utterly confounded, and becoming overwhelmed by Abigail's—and the girls'—utter conviction, starts to whimper, hands half raised, powerless, and all the girls begin whimpering exactly as she does.)
- 473 **Danforth**. A little while ago you were afflicted. Now it seems you afflict others; where did you find this power?
- 474 **Mary Warren** (*staring at Abigail*). I—have no power.
- 475 **Girls**. I have no power.
- 476 **Proctor**. They're gulling you,<sup>16</sup> Mister!
- 477 **Danforth**. Why did you turn about this past two weeks? You have seen the Devil, have you not?
- 478 **Hale** (*indicating Abigail and the girls*). You cannot believe them!
- 479 **Mary Warren**. I—
- 480 **Proctor** (*sensing her weakening*). Mary, God damns all liars!
- 481 **Danforth** (*pounding it into her*). You have seen the Devil, you have made compact with Lucifer, have you not?
- 482 **Proctor**. God damns liars, Mary!

<sup>15</sup>sporting: playing a game.

<sup>16</sup>gulling you: deceiving you.



- 483 (Mary utters something unintelligible, staring at Abigail, who keeps watching the "bird" above.)
- 484 **Danforth.** I cannot hear you. What do you say? (Mary utters again unintelligibly.) You will confess yourself or you will hang! (He turns her roughly to face him.) Do you know who I am? I say you will hang if you do not open with me!
- 485 **Proctor.** Mary, remember the angel Raphael—do that which is good and—
- 486 **Abigail** (pointing upward). The wings! Her wings are spreading! Mary, please, don't, don't—!
- 487 **Hale.** I see nothing, Your Honor!
- 488 **Danforth.** Do you confess this power! (He is an inch from her face.) Speak!
- 489 **Abigail.** She's going to come down! She's walking the beam!
- 490 **Danforth.** Will you speak!
- 491 **Mary Warren** (staring in horror). I cannot!
- 492 **Girls.** I cannot!
- 493 **Parris.** Cast the Devil out! Look him in the face! Trample him! We'll save you, Mary, only stand fast against him and—
- 494 **Abigail** (looking up). Look out! She's coming down!
- 495 (She and all the girls run to one wall, shielding their eyes. And now, as though cornered, they let out a gigantic scream, and Mary, as though infected, opens her mouth and screams with them. Gradually Abigail and the girls leave off, until only Mary is left there, staring up at the "bird," screaming madly. All watch her, horrified by this evident fit. Proctor strides to her.)
- 496 **Proctor.** Mary, tell the Governor what they—(He has hardly got a word out, when, seeing him coming for her, she rushes out of his reach, screaming in horror.)
- 497 **Mary Warren.** Don't touch me—don't touch me! (At which the girls halt at the door.)
- 498 **Proctor** (astonished). Mary!
- 499 **Mary Warren** (pointing at Proctor). You're the Devil's man! (He is stopped in his tracks.)
- 500 **Parris.** Praise God!
- 501 **Girls.** Praise God!
- 502 **Proctor** (numbed). Mary, how—?
- 503 **Mary Warren.** I'll not hang with you! I love God, I love God.



## NOTICE & NOTE

504 **Danforth** (to Mary). He bid you do the Devil's work?

505 **Mary Warren** (hysterically, indicating Proctor). He come at me by night and every day to sign, to sign, to—

506 **Danforth**. Sign what?

507 **Parris**. The Devil's book? He come with a book?

508 **Mary Warren** (hysterically, pointing at Proctor, fearful of him). My name, he want my name. "I'll murder you," he says, "if my wife hangs! We must go and overthrow the court," he says!

509 (Danforth's head jerks toward Proctor, shock and horror in his face.)



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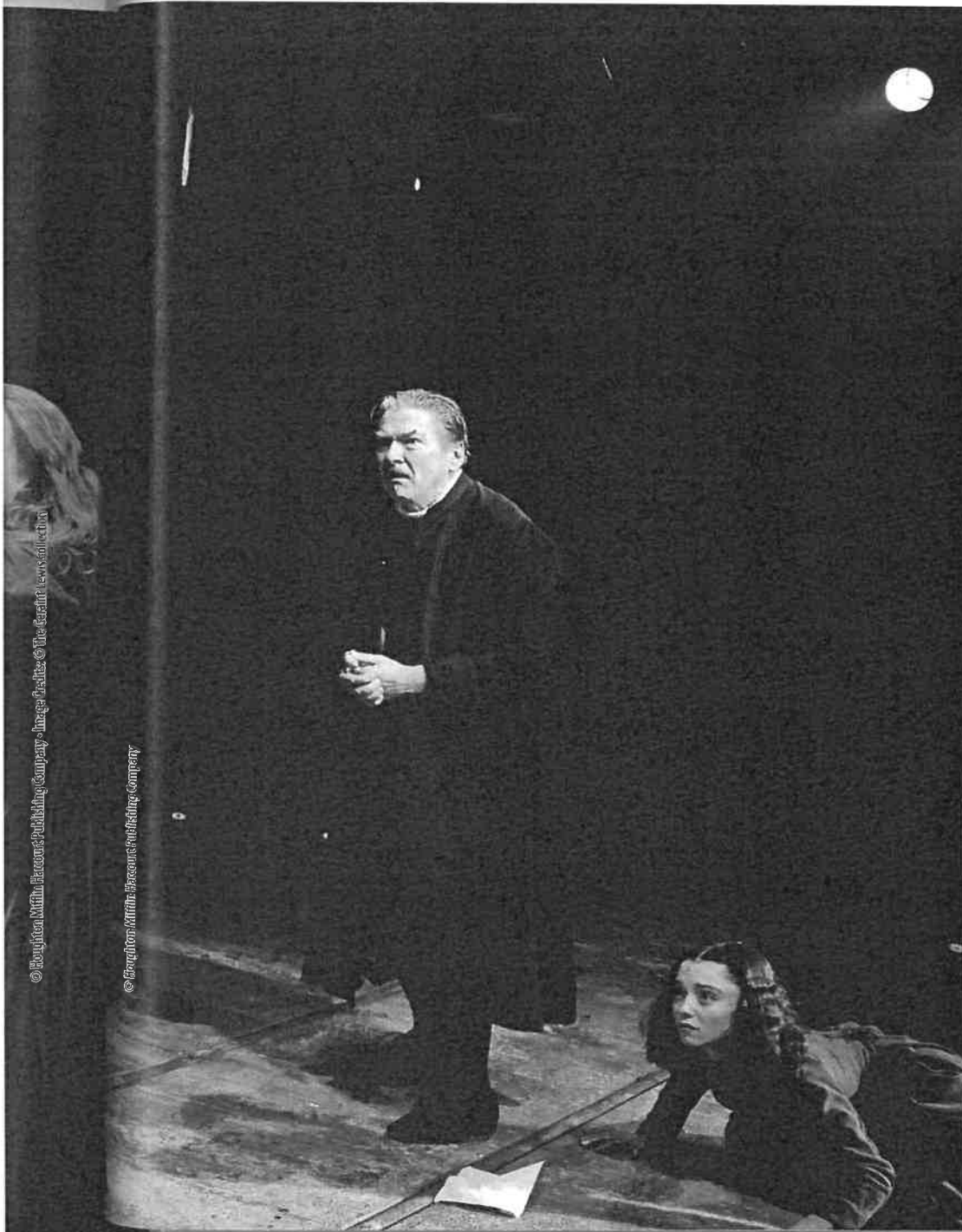


- 510 **Proctor** (*turning, appealing to Hale*). Mr. Hale!
- 511 **Mary Warren** (*her sobs beginning*). He wake me every night, his eyes were like coals and his fingers claw my neck, and I sign, I sign . . .
- 512 **Hale**. Excellency, this child's gone wild!
- 513 **Proctor** (*as Danforth's wide eyes pour on him*). Mary, Mary!
- 514 **Mary Warren** (*screaming at him*). No, I love God; I go your way no more. I love God, I bless God. (*Sobbing, she rushes to Abigail.*) Abby, Abby, I'll never hurt you more! (*They all watch, as Abigail, out of her infinite charity, reaches out and draws the sobbing Mary to her, and then looks up to Danforth.*)

### CONTRASTS AND CONTRADICTIONS

**Notice & Note:** Mark a surprising detail in paragraph 514 about Abigail's response to Mary Warren's screaming.

**Analyze:** Explain whether this detail is intended to convey a genuine change in Abigail's behavior.







## NOTICE & NOTE

515 **Danforth** (to Proctor). What are you? (Proctor is *beyond speech in his anger*.) You are combined with anti-Christ,<sup>17</sup> are you not? I have seen your power; you will not deny it! What say you, Mister?

516 **Hale**. Excellency—

517 **Danforth**. I will have nothing from you, Mr. Hale! (to Proctor) Will you confess yourself befouled with Hell, or do you keep that black allegiance yet? What say you?

518 **Proctor** (*his mind wild, breathless*). I say—I say—God is dead!

519 **Parris**. Hear it, hear it!

520 **Proctor** (*laughs insanely, then*). A fire, a fire is burning! I hear the boot of Lucifer, I see his filthy face! And it is my face, and yours, Danforth! For them that quail to bring men out of ignorance, as I

<sup>17</sup>**anti-Christ**: in the New Testament Christ's great enemy, expected to spread evil before Christ conquers him and the world ends (1 John 2:18).





have quailed, and as you quail now when you know in all your black hearts that this be fraud—God damns our kind especially, and we will burn, we will burn together!

- 521 **Danforth.** Marshal! Take him and Corey with him to the jail!
- 522 **Hale** (*starting across to the door*). I denounce these proceedings!
- 523 **Proctor.** You are pulling Heaven down and raising up a whore!
- 524 **Hale.** I denounce these proceedings, I quit this court! (*He slams the door to the outside behind him.*)
- 525 **Danforth** (*calling to him in a fury*). Mr. Hale! Mr. Hale!
- 526 (*The curtain falls.*)

### CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

Answer these questions before moving on to the **Analyze the Text** section on the following page.

- 1 What is the setting for this act of the play?
  - A A jail
  - B A schoolhouse
  - C A room in Proctor's home
  - D A room in the meeting house
  
- 2 What proof does the judge require to show Mary is telling the truth?
  - F Mary must faint convincingly.
  - G Mary must produce an eyewitness.
  - H Mary must give testimony against Abigail.
  - J Mary must admit that she herself is a witch.
  
- 3 Why does Proctor confess to adultery?
  - A To protect himself
  - B To protect his wife
  - C To protect Abigail
  - D To protect his reputation