



- 115 **Mary Warren.** I never knew it before. I never knew anything before. When she come into the court I say to myself, I must not accuse this woman, for she sleep in ditches, and so very old and poor. But then—then she sit there, denying and denying, and I feel a misty coldness climbin' up my back, and the skin on my skull begin to creep, and I feel a clamp around my neck and I cannot breathe air; and then (*entranced*) I hear a voice, a screamin' voice, and it were my voice—and all at once I remembered everything she done to me!
- 116 **Proctor.** Why? What did she do to you?
- 117 **Mary Warren** (*like one awakened to a marvelous secret insight*). So many time, Mr. Proctor, she come to this very door, beggin' bread and a cup of cider—and mark this: whenever I turned her away empty, she *mumbled*.
- 118 **Elizabeth.** Mumbled! She may mumble if she's hungry.
- 119 **Mary Warren.** But *what* does she mumble? You must remember, Goody Proctor. Last month—a Monday, I think—she walked away, and I thought my guts would burst for two days after. Do you remember it?
- 120 **Elizabeth.** Why—I do, I think, but—
- 121 **Mary Warren.** And so I told that to Judge Hathorne, and he asks her so. “Sarah Good,” says he, “what curse do you mumble that this girl must fall sick after turning you away?” And then she replies (*mimicking an old crone*) “Why, your excellence, no curse at all. I only say my commandments;³ I hope I may say my commandments,” says she!
- 122 **Elizabeth.** And that's an upright answer.
- 123 **Mary Warren.** Aye, but then Judge Hathorne say, “Recite for us your commandments!” (*leaning avidly toward them*) and of all the ten she could not say a single one. She never knew no commandments, and they had her in a flat lie!
- 124 **Proctor.** And so condemned her?
- 125 **Mary Warren** (*now a little strained, seeing his stubborn doubt*). Why, they must when she condemned herself.
- 126 **Proctor.** But the proof, the proof!
- 127 **Mary Warren** (*with greater impatience with him*). I told you the proof. It's hard proof, hard as rock, the judges said.
- 128 **Proctor** (*pauses an instant, then*). You will not go to court again, Mary Warren.
- 129 **Mary Warren.** I must tell you, sir, I will be gone every day now. I am amazed you do not see what weighty work we do.

³ **commandments:** the Ten Commandments in the Bible.

ANALYZE DRAMATIC ELEMENTS

Annotate: Mark phrases in paragraphs 115–117 that express Mary's belief in the witch hunt.

Interpret: What does Mary's dialogue tell you about her character?



NOTICE & NOTE

- 130 **Proctor.** What work you do! It's strange work for a Christian girl to hang old women!
- 131 **Mary Warren.** But, Mr. Proctor, they will not hang them if they confess. Sarah Good will only sit in jail some time (*recalling*) and here's a wonder for you; think on this. Goody Good is pregnant!
- 132 **Elizabeth.** Pregnant! Are they mad? The woman's near to sixty!
- 133 **Mary Warren.** They had Doctor Griggs examine her, and she's full to the brim. And smokin' a pipe all these years, and no husband either! But she's safe, thank God, for they'll not hurt the innocent child. But be that not a marvel? You must see it, sir, it's God's work we do. So I'll be gone every day for some time. I'm—I am an official of the court, they say, and I—(*She has been edging toward offstage.*)
- 134 **Proctor.** I'll official you! (*He strides to the mantel, takes down the whip hanging there.*)
- 135 **Mary Warren** (*terrified, but coming erect, striving for her authority*). I'll not stand whipping any more!
- 136 **Elizabeth** (*hurriedly, as Proctor approaches*). Mary, promise now you'll stay at home—
- 137 **Mary Warren** (*backing from him, but keeping her erect posture, striving, striving for her way*). The Devil's loose in Salem, Mr. Proctor; we must discover where he's hiding!
- 138 **Proctor.** I'll whip the Devil out of you! (*With whip raised he reaches out for her, and she streaks away and yells.*)
- 139 **Mary Warren** (*pointing at Elizabeth*). I saved her life today!
- 140 (*Silence. His whip comes down.*)
- 141 **Elizabeth** (*softly*). I am accused?
- 142 **Mary Warren** (*quaking*). Somewhat mentioned. But I said I never see no sign you ever sent your spirit out to hurt no one, and seeing I do live so closely with you, they dismissed it.
- 143 **Elizabeth.** Who accused me?
- 144 **Mary Warren.** I am bound by law, I cannot tell it. (*to Proctor*) I only hope you'll not be so sarcastical no more. Four judges and the King's deputy sat to dinner with us but an hour ago. I—I would have you speak civilly to me, from this out.
- 145 **Proctor** (*in horror, muttering in disgust at her*). Go to bed.
- 146 **Mary Warren** (*with a stamp of her foot*). I'll not be ordered to bed no more, Mr. Proctor! I am eighteen and a woman, however single!
- 147 **Proctor.** Do you wish to sit up? Then sit up.
- 148 **Mary Warren.** I wish to go to bed!
- 149 **Proctor** (*in anger*). Good night, then!



- 150 **Mary Warren.** Good night. (*Dissatisfied, uncertain of herself, she goes out. Wide-eyed, both, Proctor and Elizabeth stand staring.*)
- 151 **Elizabeth** (*quietly*). Oh, the noose, the noose is up!
- 152 **Proctor.** There'll be no noose.
- 153 **Elizabeth.** She wants me dead. I knew all week it would come to this!
- 154 **Proctor** (*without conviction*). They dismissed it. You heard her say—
- 155 **Elizabeth.** And what of tomorrow? She will cry me out until they take me!
- 156 **Proctor.** Sit you down.
- 157 **Elizabeth.** She wants me dead, John, you know it!
- 158 **Proctor.** I say sit down! (*She sits, trembling. He speaks quietly, trying to keep his wits.*) Now we must be wise, Elizabeth.
- 159 **Elizabeth** (*with sarcasm, and a sense of being lost*). Oh, indeed, indeed!
- 160 **Proctor.** Fear nothing. I'll find Ezekiel Cheever. I'll tell him she said it were all sport.
- 161 **Elizabeth.** John, with so many in the jail, more than Cheever's help is needed now, I think. Would you favor me with this? Go to Abigail.
- 162 **Proctor** (*his soul hardening as he senses . . .*). What have I to say to Abigail?
- 163 **Elizabeth** (*delicately*). John—grant me this. You have a faulty understanding of young girls. There is a promise made in any bed—
- 164 **Proctor** (*striving against his anger*). What promise!
- 165 **Elizabeth.** Spoke or silent, a promise is surely made. And she may dote on it now—I am sure she does—and thinks to kill me, then to take my place.
- 166 (*Proctor's anger is rising; he cannot speak.*)
- 167 **Elizabeth.** It is her dearest hope, John, I know it. There be a thousand names; why does she call mine? There be a certain danger in calling such a name—I am no Goody Good that sleeps in ditches, nor Osburn, drunk and half-witted. She'd dare not call out such a farmer's wife but there be monstrous profit in it. She thinks to take my place, John.
- 168 **Proctor.** She cannot think it! (*He knows it is true.*)
- 169 **Elizabeth** (*"reasonably"*). John, have you ever shown her somewhat of contempt? She cannot pass you in the church but you will blush—
- 170 **Proctor.** I may blush for my sin.
- 171 **Elizabeth.** I think she sees another meaning in that blush.
- 172 **Proctor.** And what see you? What see you, Elizabeth?

ANALYZE CHARACTERS AND MOTIVATIONS

Annotate: Mark stage directions in paragraphs 169–173 that explain the way Elizabeth delivers her statements.

Interpret: Why does Miller set these stage directions in quotation marks? What is revealed about the character of Elizabeth in these moments?



NOTICE & NOTE

- 173 **Elizabeth** (*“conceding”*). I think you be somewhat ashamed, for I am there, and she so close.
- 174 **Proctor**. When will you know me, woman? Were I stone I would have cracked for shame this seven month!
- 175 **Elizabeth**. Then go and tell her she’s a whore. Whatever promise she may sense—break it, John, break it.
- 176 **Proctor** (*between his teeth*). Good, then. I’ll go. (*He starts for his rifle.*)
- 177 **Elizabeth** (*trembling, fearfully*). Oh, how unwillingly!
- 178 **Proctor** (*turning on her, rifle in hand*). I will curse her hotter than the oldest cinder in hell. But pray, begrudge me not my anger!
- 179 **Elizabeth**. Your anger! I only ask you—
- 180 **Proctor**. Woman, am I so base? Do you truly think me base?
- 181 **Elizabeth**. I never called you base.
- 182 **Proctor**. Then how do you charge me with such a promise? The promise that a stallion gives a mare I gave that girl!
- 183 **Elizabeth**. Then why do you anger with me when I bid you break it?
- 184 **Proctor**. Because it speaks deceit, and I am honest! But I’ll plead no more! I see now your spirit twists around the single error of my life, and I will never tear it free!
- 185 **Elizabeth** (*crying out*). You’ll tear it free—when you come to know that I will be your only wife, or no wife at all! She has an arrow in you yet, John Proctor, and you know it well!
- 186 (*Quite suddenly, as though from the air, a figure appears in the doorway. They start slightly. It is Mr. Hale. He is different now—drawn a little, and there is a quality of deference, even of guilt, about his manner now.*)
- 187 **Hale**. Good evening.
- 188 **Proctor** (*still in his shock*). Why, Mr. Hale! Good evening to you, sir. Come in, come in.
- 189 **Hale** (*to Elizabeth*). I hope I do not startle you.
- 190 **Elizabeth**. No, no, it’s only that I heard no horse—
- 191 **Hale**. You are Goodwife Proctor.
- 192 **Proctor**. Aye; Elizabeth.
- 193 **Hale** (*nods, then*). I hope you’re not off to bed yet.
- 194 **Proctor** (*setting down his gun*). No, no. (*Hale comes further into the room. And Proctor, to explain his nervousness.*) We are not used to visitors after dark, but you’re welcome here. Will you sit you down, sir?
- 195 **Hale**. I will. (*He sits.*) Let you sit, Goodwife Proctor.



- 196 (*She does, never letting him out of her sight. There is a pause as Hale looks about the room.*)
- 197 **Proctor** (*to break the silence*). Will you drink cider, Mr. Hale?
- 198 **Hale**. No, it rebels⁴ my stomach; I have some further traveling yet tonight. Sit you down, sir. (*Proctor sits.*) I will not keep you long, but I have some business with you.
- 199 **Proctor**. Business of the court?
- 200 **Hale**. No—no, I come of my own, without the court's authority. Hear me. (*He wets his lips.*) I know not if you are aware, but your wife's name is—mentioned in the court.
- 201 **Proctor**. We know it, sir. Our Mary Warren told us. We are entirely amazed.
- 202 **Hale**. I am a stranger here, as you know. And in my ignorance I find it hard to draw a clear opinion of them that come accused before the court. And so this afternoon, and now tonight, I go from house to house—I come now from Rebecca Nurse's house and—
- 203 **Elizabeth** (*shocked*). Rebecca's charged!
- 204 **Hale**. God forbid such a one be charged. She is, however—mentioned somewhat.
- 205 **Elizabeth** (*with an attempt at a laugh*). You will never believe, I hope, that Rebecca trafficked with the Devil.
- 206 **Hale**. Woman, it is possible.
- 207 **Proctor** (*taken aback*). Surely you cannot think so.
- 208 **Hale**. This is a strange time, Mister. No man may longer doubt the powers of the dark are gathered in monstrous attack upon this village. There is too much evidence now to deny it. You will agree, sir?
- 209 **Proctor** (*evading*). I—have no knowledge in that line. But it's hard to think so pious a woman be secretly a Devil's bitch after seventy year of such good prayer.
- 210 **Hale**. Aye. But the Devil is a wily one, you cannot deny it. However, she is far from accused, and I know she will not be. (*pause*) I thought, sir, to put some questions as to the Christian character of this house, if you'll permit me.
- 211 **Proctor** (*coldly, resentful*). Why, we—have no fear of questions, sir.
- 212 **Hale**. Good, then. (*He makes himself more comfortable.*) In the book of record that Mr. Parris keeps, I note that you are rarely in the church on Sabbath Day.
- 213 **Proctor**. No, sir, you are mistaken.

⁴ rebels: upsets.

ANALYZE CHARACTERS AND MOTIVATIONS

Annotate: Mark the stage direction in paragraph 200 that suggests Hale's feelings.

Infer: What does this stage direction suggest about Hale's emotional state at the moment?



- 214 **Hale.** Twenty-six time in seventeen month, sir. I must call that rare. Will you tell me why you are so absent?
- 215 **Proctor.** Mr. Hale, I never knew I must account to that man for I come to church or stay at home. My wife were sick this winter.
- 216 **Hale.** So I am told. But you, Mister, why could you not come alone?
- 217 **Proctor.** I surely did come when I could, and when I could not I prayed in this house.
- 218 **Hale.** Mr. Proctor, your house is not a church; your theology must tell you that.
- 219 **Proctor.** It does, sir, it does; and it tells me that a minister may pray to God without he have golden candlesticks upon the altar.
- 220 **Hale.** What golden candlesticks?
- 221 **Proctor.** Since we built the church there were pewter candlesticks upon the altar; Francis Nurse made them, y'know, and a sweeter hand never touched the metal. But Parris came, and for twenty week he preach nothin' but golden candlesticks until he had them. I labor the earth from dawn of day to blink of night, and I tell you true, when I look to heaven and see my money glaring at his elbows—it hurt my prayer, sir, it hurt my prayer. I think, sometimes, the man dreams cathedrals, not clapboard meetin' houses.
- 222 **Hale** (*thinks, then*). And yet, Mister, a Christian on Sabbath Day must be in church. (*pause*) Tell me—you have three children?
- 223 **Proctor.** Aye. Boys.
- 224 **Hale.** How comes it that only two are baptized?
- 225 **Proctor** (*starts to speak, then stops, then, as though unable to restrain this*). I like it not that Mr. Parris should lay his hand upon my baby. I see no light of God in that man. I'll not conceal it.
- 226 **Hale.** I must say it, Mr. Proctor; that is not for you to decide. The man's ordained, therefore the light of God is in him.
- 227 **Proctor** (*flushed with resentment but trying to smile*). What's your suspicion, Mr. Hale?
- 228 **Hale.** No, no, I have no—
- 229 **Proctor.** I nailed the roof upon the church, I hung the door—
- 230 **Hale.** Oh, did you! That's a good sign, then.
- 231 **Proctor.** It may be I have been too quick to bring the man to book,⁵ but you cannot think we ever desired the destruction of religion. I think that's in your mind, is it not?
- 232 **Hale** (*not altogether giving way*). I—have—there is a softness in your record, sir, a softness.

⁵ bring the man to book: judge the man.



- 233 **Elizabeth.** I think, maybe, we have been too hard with Mr. Parris. I think so. But sure we never loved the Devil here.
- 234 **Hale** (*nods, deliberating this. Then, with the voice of one administering a secret test*). Do you know your Commandments, Elizabeth?
- 235 **Elizabeth** (*without hesitation, even eagerly*). I surely do. There be no mark of blame upon my life, Mr. Hale. I am a covenanted Christian woman.
- 236 **Hale.** And you, Mister?
- 237 **Proctor** (*a trifle unsteadily*). I—am sure I do, sir.
- 238 **Hale** (*glances at her open face, then at John, then*). Let you repeat them, if you will.
- 239 **Proctor.** The Commandments.
- 240 **Hale.** Aye.
- 241 **Proctor** (*looking off, beginning to sweat*). Thou shalt not kill.
- 242 **Hale.** Aye.
- 243 **Proctor** (*counting on his fingers*). Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's goods, nor make unto thee any graven image. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord in vain; thou shalt have no other gods before me. (*with some hesitation*) Thou shalt remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy. (*Pause. Then.*) Thou shalt honor thy father and mother. Thou shalt not bear false witness. (*He is stuck. He counts back on his fingers, knowing one is missing.*) Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.
- 244 **Hale.** You have said that twice, sir.
- 245 **Proctor** (*lost*). Aye. (*He is flailing for it.*)
- 246 **Elizabeth** (*delicately*). Adultery, John.
- 247 **Proctor** (*as though a secret arrow had pained his heart*). Aye. (*trying to grin it away—to Hale*) You see, sir, between the two of us we do know them all. (*Hale only looks at Proctor, deep in his attempt to define this man. Proctor grows more uneasy.*) I think it be a small fault.
- 248 **Hale.** Theology, sir, is a fortress; no crack in a fortress may be accounted small. (*He rises; he seems worried now. He paces a little, in deep thought.*)
- 249 **Proctor.** There be no love for Satan in this house, Mister.
- 250 **Hale.** I pray it, I pray it dearly. (*He looks to both of them, an attempt at a smile on his face, but his misgivings are clear.*) Well, then—I'll bid you good night.
- 251 **Elizabeth** (*unable to restrain herself*). Mr. Hale. (*He turns.*) I do think you are suspecting me somewhat? Are you not?
- 252 **Hale** (*obviously disturbed—and evasive*). Goody Proctor, I do not judge you. My duty is to add what I may to the godly wisdom of the

ANALYZE CHARACTERS AND MOTIVATIONS

Annotate: Mark stage directions in paragraphs 247–252 that describe how Proctor feels.

Evaluate: Is Proctor's weakness in this scene believable? Why or why not?



- court. I pray you both good health and good fortune. (*to John*) Good night, sir. (*He starts out.*)
- 253 **Elizabeth** (*with a note of desperation*). I think you must tell him, John.
- 254 **Hale**. What's that?
- Elizabeth** (*restraining a call*). Will you tell him?
- 255 (*Slight pause. Hale looks questioningly at John.*)
- 256 **Proctor** (*with difficulty*). I—I have no witness and cannot prove it, except my word be taken. But I know the children's sickness had naught to do with witchcraft.
- 257 **Hale** (*stopped, struck*). Naught to do—?
- 258 **Proctor**. Mr. Parris discovered them sportin' in the woods. They were startled and took sick.
- 259 (*pause*)
- 260 **Hale**. Who told you this?
- 261 **Proctor** (*hesitates, then*). Abigail Williams.
- 262 **Hale**. Abigail!
- 263 **Proctor**. Aye.
- 264 **Hale** (*his eyes wide*). Abigail Williams told you it had naught to do with witchcraft!
- 265 **Proctor**. She told me the day you came, sir.
- 266 **Hale** (*suspiciously*). Why—why did you keep this?
- 267 **Proctor**. I never knew until tonight that the world is gone daft with this nonsense.
- 268 **Hale**. Nonsense! Mister, I have myself examined Tituba, Sarah Good, and numerous others that have confessed to dealing with the Devil. They have *confessed* it.
- 269 **Proctor**. And why not, if they must hang for denyin' it? There are them that will swear to anything before they'll hang; have you never thought of that?
- 270 **Hale**. I have. I—I have indeed. (*It is his own suspicion, but he resists it. He glances at Elizabeth, then at John.*) And you—would you testify to this in court?
- 271 **Proctor**. I—had not reckoned with goin' into court. But if I must I will.
- 272 **Hale**. Do you falter here?
- 273 **Proctor**. I falter nothing, but I may wonder if my story will be credited in such a court. I do wonder on it, when such a steady-minded minister as you will suspicion such a woman that never lied,