

The Crucible Character Essay Plan Booklet

Abigail Williams

Essay question: **How does Miller present the character of Abigail Williams?**

Big idea 1:

Miller presents Abigail Williams as manipulative possibly to expose the effects of a strict and repressive society.

Quote 1: 'I will come to you in the black of some terrible night and I will bring a pointy reckoning that will shudder you.' (Abigail, Act 1 – to the all the girls)

Text level:

1. Who says this quotation? When do they say it? Who are they speaking to?
2. What is she threatening the girls to do?
3. What does it show us about how Abigail is feeling if she feels she needs to threaten the girls? What has she done?

Sentence level:

1. There is a semantic field here of darkness and violence here – which words would you associate with it? Why does Miller use this semantic field?
2. How does this line prove that she is manipulative?

Word level:

1. Why does Miller have Abigail use the word 'will'?
2. Why does Abigail use the adjective 'black' to describe the night she would punish the girls if they betrayed her? What connotations does it have?
3. How could this show her as manipulative?
4. Why does Abigail use the adjective 'pointy' to describe her threat? What connotations does it have? Does it remind you of any other parts in the play? (Hint- what does Mary Warren give Elizabeth Proctor?)

Text level:

1. **Abigail says this to the girls in Act 1, after the adults have left Betty's bedroom.**
2. **Abigail is threatening the girls to stay quiet about what they did in the woods.**
3. **Abigail could be feeling panicked here because she recognises that what she has done incriminates her (makes her look guilty); she has drunk a charm to kill Elizabeth Proctor.**

Sentence level:

1. **'Black', 'night', 'pointy', 'shudder'. Miller uses this semantic field to show the severity of Abigail's threat.**
2. **Abigail is manipulative here because she is using her power to force the girls into submission.**

Word level:

1. **The word shows her certainty and therefore increases her threat. If any of the girls betray her, she promises revenge.**
2. **The word 'black' has connotations of darkness and evil and therefore could remind the girls of the devil. This is manipulative because Abigail uses their religious beliefs/fears to control them.**
3. **The word 'pointy' has connotations of something sharp, perhaps a knife or a blade. Perhaps this could remind us of the needle placed in the poppet.**

Quote 2: 'She brings the other girls into the court, and where she walks the crowd will part like the sea for Israel.' (Act 2 Elizabeth talking about Abigail to John)

Text level:

1. Who says this quotation? Who are they speaking to? What are they talking about?
2. What does this suggest about the hysteria in Salem?
3. Why do you think Miller has us hear about the development of the trials through Elizabeth?

Sentence level:

1. What biblical reference is used here?
2. What language device is used?
3. What/who is Abigail compared to?
4. Why does Elizabeth compare Abigail to this person? Why this religious metaphor?
5. Why does she compare the crowd to 'sea'? What does this show us about the town's feelings towards Abigail? Why are they behaving like this?

Word level:

1. What is significant about the word, 'bring'?
2. What does it show us about Abigail?
3. What impact does Abigail's accusations have on the town of Salem?

Text level:

1. Elizabeth says this to Proctor in Act 2. She is talking about how people are treating Abigail since the beginning of the witch trials.
2. The hysteria is spreading quickly because people are too scared to defy Abigail and risk being accused of witchcraft.
3. Elizabeth is an honest character with integrity. Therefore, we are led to see Abigail's behaviour as deceitful. This reveals to us the pretence (falsity/lies) of the trials.

Sentence level:

1. The parting of the Red Sea for Moses and the Israelites (Exodus).
2. A simile.
3. Abigail is compared to Moses. Moses was a prophet and a well-known biblical figure. Elizabeth might be suggesting that Abigail is well-known and powerful in the town now.
4. The town parts for her, like the sea for Moses, to show they revere and respect her – or, they are scared of her.

Word level:

1. The verb shows Abigail's power over the other girls.
2. She is the leader of this pretence.
3. Parting something is also dividing it. She causes division in the town between those who try to oppose her and those who are too scared to do so.

Big idea 2:

Miller presents Abigail as rebellious.

Quote 1: 'an endless capacity for dissembling. Now she is all worry and apprehension and propriety.' (Abigail opening stage directions)

Text level:

1. Who is this quotation describing?
2. Which act?
3. When is this stage direction used?
4. What first impression does Miller want us to have of her? Why does Miller want us to know this before the play commences? What effect does this create?

Sentence level:

1. What kind of list is used in the second sentence?
2. What does this convey about her behaviour upon entering the stage?
3. Why does the polysyndetic list include *these* emotions? What is she trying to do?
4. How does this depict her as rebellious?

Word level:

1. Why does Miller use the word 'endless' when referring to her 'capacity for dissembling'? What effect does this create?
2. Why does Miller use the word 'Now'? What could it convey about her nature?
3. What could this word reveal to us about the society she inhabits?

Text level:

1. **Abigail's initial stage directions.**
2. **Act 1.**
3. **When we first meet Abigail.**
4. **Miller wants us to recognise her troublesome ways. There is a sense of foreboding established here as we recognise that Abigail will be at the centre of the trouble.**

Sentence level:

1. **Polysyndetic list.**
2. **The repeated conjunctions convey the extent of her acting; these characteristics are layers which conceal her true nature.**
3. **Abigail is trying to convey a façade of innocence to her Uncle, in order to conform to the society's expectations of young women.**
4. **She is capable of defying the strict theocratic rules put in place for her.**

Word level:

1. **The word 'endless' suggests that she will stop at nothing to cause trouble. This creates foreboding because we are led to believe her conscience will not cause her to stop what she is doing.**
2. **The word 'now' reveals how she is able to change from one façade to another. She is a capable actress who is able to deceive her Uncle.**
3. **This could reveal that the society she lives in is repressive because she is expected to conform to gender expectations.**

Quote 2: 'Your name in the town – it is entirely white, is it not?' (Act 1, Reverend Parris to Abigail)

Text level:

1. Who says this quotation? Who are they talking to?
2. What does Reverend Parris mean when he asks her this?
3. What could it imply to us about Abigail? How is she characterised here?
4. What does it reveal to us about this society?

Sentence level:

1. What sentence type is this (hint: what's at the end of it?)
2. What could this show us about Reverend Parris and Abigail's relationship? Who is more in control? Why? Why is this surprising?
3. Why might Parris be worried about questioning Abigail?

Word level:

1. What is the word 'name' a metaphor for?
2. Therefore, what is significant about the contrast between Proctor and Abigail here?
3. Why does Miller use the word, 'white' to refer to Abigail's 'name'? What connotations does it have?
4. How does this show that Abigail is rebellious?

Text level:

1. **Reverend Parris**
2. **He asks her whether she has done anything to muddy (ruin) her reputation in the town.**
3. **This could reveal Abigail's promiscuous nature**
4. **This could reveal that reputation is important in this society.**

Sentence level:

1. **The hyphen shows Parris's hesitation and nervousness in questioning her.**
2. **This sentence is framed as a question.**
3. **Reverend Parris is worried about questioning Abigail. He has heard rumours but is nervous about addressing these to her. This could reveal Abigail's power and her ability to manipulate others. This is surprising because society would have Parris as the superior figure because he is ordained and a man.**

Word level:

4. **Reputation**
5. **Proctor in Act 4: 'leave me my name'**
6. **Abigail's 'name' is muddied before the play even begins, implying her lack of innocence and integrity. She and Proctor's integrity is contrasted here: he remains honest while she lies throughout.**
7. **The word has connotations of purity and innocence**
8. **Parris is questioning her chastity. He suspects she has lost her virginity.**
9. **Abigail rebels against the strict expectations of women by having an affair with Proctor.**

Big idea 3:

Miller presents Abigail as a victim of the strict theocratic society she inhabits.

Quote 1: 'A wild thing may say wild things' (Act 1 Abigail to John Proctor)**Text level:**

1. Who says this quotation? To whom? When?
2. What have they been talking about?
3. Before this quotation, John says, 'Abby, that is a wild thing to say.' What has she said?
4. At some point in this scene, we hear psalms (religious hymns) being sung off-stage. What is the contrast here? What does this show us about Abigail?

Sentence level

1. Abigail repeats the word 'wild.' Where does she first hear this word in this scene?
2. Why is it significant that she uses John's words?

Word level:

1. What does 'wild' mean?
2. What are the connotations? (think about what you would associate with a 'wild' animal).
3. What could this reveal to us about Abigail?
4. What else can this word mean?
5. How could this reveal to us that she is a victim of this society?

Text level:

1. **Abigail says this to Proctor in Act 2.**
2. **Their affair.**
3. **That John still loves her.**
4. **There is a contrast between the religious songs and the (sinful) adultery they have committed. This reveals the strict expectations of the church, but also the rebellious nature of Abigail, who speaks to John about their clandestine affair despite their being almost within ear-shot of her Uncle.**

Sentence level:

1. **John says it to her.**
2. **The repetition shows us how she dotes on him.**

Word level:

1. **Untamed**
2. **Violent or dangerous**
3. **She is unwilling to bend to strict societal rules.**
4. **However, the word also refers to something that is in its natural state.**
5. **This could reveal how Abigail's natural instincts are restricted by the theocratic society.**

Quote 2: 'You have a faulty understanding of young girls. There is a promise made in any bed.' (Act 2 Elizabeth to John about Abigail)**Text level:**

1. Who says this? To whom? When?
2. What does the quotation mean? What is Elizabeth saying?
3. Who is potentially a victim of here? Why?

Sentence level:

1. What sentence types are these? What is their impact?

Text level:

1. **Elizabeth says this to Proctor in Act 2.**
2. **Elizabeth suggests that John has not considered the situation he has left Abigail in.**
3. **She is a victim of John's lust. He is the more powerful of the two – as an adult and a man – and has exploited her to grant his desires, without considering the danger this puts her in.**

2. What does this convey about what Elizabeth is suggesting? How does it make us view John?

Word level:

1. What does 'faulty' mean? What does this reveal about John and Abigail?
2. What does the word 'young' show us about Abigail and John's affair and about John's treatment of her?
3. How could this depict her as a victim?

Sentence level:

1. **Declarative sentence – convey certainty and conviction**
2. **The audience know that Elizabeth is right. This exposes John as someone who has been careless towards Abigail.**

Word level:

1. **Faulty means broken or malfunctioning. Elizabeth implies that John has not considered the hurt he has caused Abigail or understood what he has promised her by sleeping with her.**
2. **The word could reveal how John has taken her innocence. He has 'ruined' her and her reputation at a vulnerable age.**
3. **She is a victim of his desire because, while his marriage lasts, her reputation is soiled forever. *Could you argue that she has no other choice but to lie in the witch trials?***

John Proctor

Essay question: How does Miller present the character of John Proctor?	
Big idea 1: Miller presents John Proctor as a flawed character.	
Quote 1: 'Abby I may think of you softly from time to time.' (Act 1 John to Abigail)	
Text level: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Who says this quote? Who are they talking to?2. What is the relationship between John and Abigail?3. What does John reveal about his feelings towards Abigail in act 1?4. Why has he made this decision?5. How does Abigail react to this? Sentence level: n/a Word level: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Why does John call her 'Abby' and not 'Abigail'?2. What might this suggest about their relationship?3. Why might John think about Abigail 'softly'?4. Why does this make John 'flawed'?	Text level: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. John to Abigail in act 1.2. They have had an affair.3. That he no longer wants to continue the affair with Abigail.4. He wants to be an honest man – he realises that the affair was wrong.5. She does not believe it – she loves John and wants to be with him. Word level: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Abigail would be called 'Abby' by close friends and family so this could suggest that they were close.2. He could also be calling her 'Abby' in an affectionate manner which further reinforces their close relationship.3. The fact that John thinks of Abigail in a 'softly' way could suggest that he feels affection for her.4. He is aware that his affair with Abigail was wrong but he still has some affection for her.
Quote 2: 'Woman! It is pride, it is vanity...be his helper!' (Act 4 Hale talking to Elizabeth about Proctor's refusal to confess)	
Text level: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Who says this quote? Who are they talking to? Which act?2. What is John refusing to do?3. Why is he refusing to confess?4. What happened to the people who refused to confess to witchcraft?5. What is Hale asking Elizabeth to do?6. Does Elizabeth want to convince John to confess?7. Why/why not? Sentence level:	Text level: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Reverend Hale to Elizabeth about John in act 4.2. To confess to witchcraft.3. Because he does not want to lie – he wants to show integrity.4. They were sentenced to death.5. Hale is asking Elizabeth to convince John to confess to witchcraft.6. No7. She sees John as a good and honourable man and doesn't want to make him go against his integrity.

1. What sentence types are 'woman!' and 'be his helper!' (hint – what punctuation is used at the end of each sentence?)
2. What does this show us about how Hale is feeling?
3. What impression does Hale have of Proctor here?
4. Why does this suggest that Proctor is a flawed character?

Word level:

1. What is the difference between 'pride' and 'vanity'?
2. By refusing to confess, what is John prioritising over his family/wife?
3. Does Hale think these are good reasons to sacrifice your life? Why/why not?

Sentence level:

1. Exclamative sentences
2. This shows us Hale's frustration – he is desperate for John to confess so that he will not hang.
3. Hale questions Proctor's integrity here. He doesn't understand why Proctor would rather die than tell a lie.
4. This suggests that Proctor is a flawed character because his integrity is going to be his downfall – he is willing to sacrifice his life to avoid lying.

Word level:

1. Pride is a feeling of pleasure or satisfaction about one's achievements or abilities. Vanity is when you have excessive pride in your appearance, achievements or abilities.
2. His public image.
3. No – he thinks it is selfish and a mistake for John to think of his public image over his family.

Big idea 2:

Proctor challenges the status quo – he is not afraid to challenge authority

Quote 1: 'I see no light of God in that man.' (Act 2 John to Hale)

Text level:

1. Who is speaking here? Who are they speaking to? Which act?
2. Who are they speaking about?
3. What is the relationship between John and Reverend Parris?
4. Why does John not like Reverend Parris?

Sentence level:

1. What sentence type is used here?
 - A. Exclamatory sentence (!)
 - B. Imperative sentence (a command/instruction)
 - C. Declarative sentence (a statement)
2. Does John feel confident about questioning Parris' authority?
3. What does this reveal about John feelings towards Parris?

Word level:

1. What is Parris' role in society?
2. Is he a religious man?
3. What does 'light' have connotations of?
4. Does John think Parris is a 'good' person? Why/why not? (Hint - what is John criticising Parris for here?)

Text level:

1. John Proctor to Reverend Hale in act 2.
2. John is speaking about Reverend Parris.
3. John and Parris do not have a good relationship.
4. John thinks that Parris is more concerned with his reputation than his role as a reverend. Parris dislikes John because he thinks he is part of the group that want to remove his power.

Sentence level:

1. C - Declarative sentence
2. Yes
3. He is willing to speak out about Parris' hypocrisy.

Word level:

1. He is a reverend – he works for the church.
2. Yes
3. Hope and goodness
4. No because is criticising how he is more concerned about his reputation than his faith. He thinks he is a hypocrite.

Quote 2: 'Is the accuser always holy now...vengeance is walking in Salem.' (Act 2 John to Hale, Cheever, Elizabeth, Mary, Nurse and Corey)

Text level:

1. Who is speaking here? Who are they speaking to? Which act?
2. Who is John referring to when he says 'the accuser'?
3. What is John angry about?

Sentence level:

1. What language technique is used in the phrase 'vengeance is walking in Salem'?

Text level:

1. John Proctor in act 2
2. The girls who are accusing people of witchcraft.
3. John is angry that anyone who makes an accusation about witchcraft is instantly believed – even though there is no evidence.

Sentence level:

1. Personification

2. What does 'vengeance' mean?
3. Which character does John think is the personification of 'vengeance'?
4. Why is this character taking vengeance/who are they taking vengeance on?
5. What type of sentence is 'is the accuser always holy now?'
 - A) Exclamative sentence
 - B) Declarative sentence
 - C) Interrogative sentence
6. What is John asking here?
7. What does this tell us about how John is feeling about the trials?

Word level:

1. What does the word 'holy' mean?
2. Does John think the people who accuse others of witchcraft are 'holy'? Why/why not?
3. How does this show that John is not fearful to challenge authority?

2. **Revenge/punishment**
3. **Abigail Williams**
4. **Abigail wants to have vengeance on Elizabeth Proctor so she can be with John.**
5. **C - Interrogative sentence**
6. **John is asking if the people who are making accusations should be assumed as innocent and acting without evil intentions.**
7. **John is frustrated with the witchcraft trials – he thinks it is absurd that people are being sentenced to death/put in prison based on accusations from young girls.**

Word level:

1. **Sacred; connected to God.**
2. **No – he knows that Abigail is lying so she is not holy because lying is a sin.**
3. **John is willing to question the trials (something that could be potentially dangerous to him) and stand up for the people that he believes to be innocent.**

Big idea 3:**John Proctor is a man of integrity**

Quote 1: 'It is the magistrate that sits in your heart that judges you' (Act 2 Elizabeth to John)

Text level:

1. Who is speaking here? To who? Which act?
2. What relationship do Elizabeth and John have?
3. What opinion does Elizabeth have of John?
4. Why is John frustrated with Elizabeth at the start of act 2?

Sentence/word level:

1. A magistrate is another word for a judge – someone who would make a decision based on law. Does John really have a 'magistrate' sitting in his heart?
2. Therefore, what language technique is being used?
3. What does a magistrate do?
4. Does Elizabeth say that she is judging John here for his affair with Abigail?
5. Who does Elizabeth think judges John for his affair with Abigail?
6. What does this reveal about John?

Text level:

1. Elizabeth is speaking to John in act 2.
2. They are married.
3. Elizabeth views John as a good and honourable man.
4. Because she won't let him forget about his affair with Abigail – even though he has promised to never be with her again.

Sentence/word level:

1. No
2. Metaphor
3. To make decisions/a judgement based on the law.
4. No
5. Elizabeth thinks that John is judging himself.
6. That he holds himself to a high standard – he is trying to show integrity.

Quote 2: 'Because I lie and sign myself to lies! Because I am not worth the dust on the feet of them that hang!' (Act 4 John – when he refuses to confess at the end of the play)

Text level:

1. Who is speaking here? Who are they speaking to? Which act?
2. What is John refusing to do during this moment in the play?
3. Why is John refusing to do this?
4. Why does this show that John has integrity?

Sentence level:

1. What sentence types are used here?
A – declarative sentence

Text level:

1. John in act 4 to Judge Hathorne and Danforth and Reverend Hale.
2. He is refusing to confess to witchcraft.
3. Despite initially confessing – John refuses to sign his name because he realises that the court officials will show the whole town and destroy John's reputation.
4. Because he is refusing to lie – he understands that this will result in a death sentence but believes that

B – interrogative sentence

C – exclamatory sentence

2. What does this show us about how John is feeling during this scene?

Word level:

1. Whose 'feet' is John referring to in this quotation?
2. Why is John thinking about those who have been wrongfully killed when deciding whether to confess or not?
3. What does this show us about John?

his integrity will mean that he dies an honourable man.

Sentence level:

1. C – exclamatory sentence
2. He is feeling frustrated and angry – he does not want to confess because he knows it is a lie. It is important to John that he keeps his honour.

Word level:

1. The feet of the people who have been falsely accused of witchcraft and subsequently been sentenced to death.
2. Because he would feel guilty to confess to witchcraft (which is a lie) to avoid death when others have been killed despite their own innocence.
3. That he is unwilling to lose his integrity – even if losing it would save his life.

Reverend Hale

Essay question: How does Miller present the character of Reverend Hale?	
Big idea 1: Miller presents Reverend Hale as an authoritative figure.	
Quote 1: <i>'A ruddy bright young man. He is loaded down with half a dozen half books...they are weighted with authority.'</i> (Act 1 SD about Hale when he first arrives at Reverend Parris' house)	
Text level: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Where is this quote from?2. Who is the quote about?3. What is Hale an expert in?4. Whose house does Hale arrive at?5. Why has he been asked to this house?6. When Hale arrives in the Parris household – how is he viewed by the other characters? Sentence level: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What technique has been used in 'they are weighted with authority'? (Hint – are the books literally weighed down by authority?)2. What does this tell us about the books that Hale has?3. What does this then tell us about Hale? Word level: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. 'Ruddy' means cheerful/having a face full of colour. If Hale is described as 'ruddy and bright' – what kind of person is he?2. What does 'authority' mean?3. What does Hale recognise about the work that he does?4. Therefore, how might Hale view himself?	Text level: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Act 1 – Hale's opening stage directions2. Reverend Hale3. Witchcraft.4. Reverend Parris'5. To investigate Betty's illness and to confirm that nothing supernatural is going on.6. He is viewed as the saviour – he has come to help and to tell them if Betty is possessed by the Devil. The other characters view him as intellectual. Sentence level: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Metaphor/personification (the books are given the human quality of authority)2. This suggests that the books are important and significantly, that they hold the answers to what is wrong with Betty.3. This tells us that Hale is an authoritative figure because he is the one who has the important intellectual books that will provide the answers that the characters are asking. Word level: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. 'Ruddy and bright' suggests that Hale is an enthusiastic man.2. The power/right to give orders3. He thinks that it is important work4. He views himself as superior – he has a sense of arrogance about his intellect.

Quote 2: 'We cannot look to superstition in this. The Devil is precise, the marks of his presence are definite as stone.' (Act 1 Hale to Reverend Parris)

Text level:

1. Who is speaking here? Who are they speaking to? Which act?
2. What is Hale considered an expert in?
3. What tone does Hale have here?
4. What does Hale reveal about the devil? What does this tell us about Hale?
5. Why might this make him seem like a trustworthy figure to the other characters?

Sentence level:

1. What language technique has been used in the phrase 'as definite as stone'?
2. What is being compared to what here?
3. What sentence types does Hale use here?
4. What does this suggest about him?

Word level:

1. What does 'superstition' mean?
2. Why does Hale say that they should not view Betty's illness as superstition?
3. 'Definite' is an adjective that is used to describe something as clear and certain. What does Hale's use of this word suggest about his beliefs?

Text level:

1. Reverend Hale to Reverend Parris. Act 1.
2. Hale is considered an expert in witchcraft.
3. He has an authoritative tone – he thinks he is the only one who can shed light on the workings of the devil.
4. Hale says that the devil is 'precise' which shows that Hale understands the workings of the devil – much more than anyone else.
5. This would make the other characters trust Hale – they believe that he is the only one who understands the devil and how he works.

Sentence level:

1. Simile
2. The marks of the Devil are being compared to stone.
3. He uses declarative sentences.
4. This suggests that Hale is knowledgeable about the devil/the supernatural.

Word level:

1. Superstitions are considered irrational beliefs in the supernatural, particularly to things that will bring either good or bad luck.
2. Hale makes it clear that Betty's illness is much more serious than a superstition and warns the family that there may be serious supernatural powers involved.
3. 'Definite' suggests that Hale is certain that the devil exists and he believes in witches/the power of the supernatural.

Big idea 2:

Miller presents Reverend Hale cowardly because he is too concerned with his reputation.

Quote 1: 'Hale is different now, drawn – a little, even, of guilt about his manner now.'
(Hale's stage directions in Act 2)

Text level:

1. Who is this quotation about? Which act?
2. Where is Hale at the beginning of act 2?
3. How has Hale changed since his opening stage directions in act 1?
4. What has changed in Salem since his arrival?
5. What does this suggest about the effect that the witch trials have had on him?

Word level:

1. Why might Hale feel 'guilty'?

Text level:

1. Reverend Hale, act 2.
2. He is at the Proctor household.
3. He is no longer 'ruddy and bright'. He has lost his sense of authority that he had when he arrived at Reverend Parris' house.
4. The witch-hunt has begun and the mass-hysteria is spreading quickly. Hale never expected this to happen when he first arrived.
5. This suggests that the trials have made Hale feel weary. He looks physically different because the intensity of the trials has started to drain him of the 'ruddy brightness' that he had at the beginning of the play.

Word level:

1. Hale begins to feel guilty because he has witnessed how quickly the mass-hysteria has spread.

Quote 2: "Pontius Pilate, God will not let you wash your hands of this!" (Act 2 John to Hale)

Text level:

1. Who says this quote? Who are they speaking to? Which act?
2. What has just happened to Elizabeth?

Sentence level:

1. Which biblical figure does Miller make an allusion to here?
2. Who is this person? What did they do?
3. Why does John compare Hale to Pontius Pilate?

Text level:

1. John Proctor to Hale in act 2.
2. Elizabeth has just been accused of witchcraft by Abigail Williams.

Sentence level:

1. Pontius Pilate
2. He was the Roman governor who sentenced Jesus to death. Pilate literally washed his hands in public to wash away any responsibility for Jesus' death.
3. By comparing Hale to Pontius Pilate, John is suggesting that Hale will not be able to easily wash

4. John uses the metaphor 'God will not let you wash your hands of this.' What does John mean here?
5. What sentence type does John use here?
6. What does this suggest about how he is feeling? (Hint – what has just happened to Elizabeth?)

away his guilt from allowing Elizabeth to be arrested for witchcraft.

- 4. John means that Hale will not be forgiven by God.**
- 5. Exclamative sentence**
- 6. He is feeling frustrated and angry because his innocent wife is being accused of witchcraft despite there being no evidence.**

Big idea 3:

Miller presents Reverend Hale as having integrity once he acknowledges his guilt.

Quote 1: 'Private vengeance is working through this testimony!' (Act 3 Hale – after Elizabeth has lied for John.)

Text level:

1. Who says this quote? Which act?
2. What has just happened in the play?
3. Why does Elizabeth do this?
4. What does Hale know at this point?
5. Is Hale angry at Elizabeth for lying?
6. Who is Hale really angry at? (Hint – who started the accusations?)

Sentence level:

7. What sentence type has been used here?
8. What does this tell us about how Hale is feeling?
9. What language technique is used in the phrase 'private vengeance is working through this testimony'?

Word level:

10. What does 'vengeance' mean?
11. Which character do John and Hale think is the personification of 'vengeance'?
12. Why is this character taking vengeance/who are they taking vengeance on?

Text level:

1. Reverend Hale in act 3.
2. Elizabeth has just lied for John – she tells the court that John has not committed adultery.
3. She wants to protect the integrity and honour of her husband.
4. Hale knows that Elizabeth is lying to save John's reputation.
5. No
6. He is angry at Abigail who started the mass-hysteria in Salem.

Sentence level:

1. Exclamative sentence
2. Hale is angry about how the accusations in Salem have escalated. He is almost at a loss at what to do.
3. Personification/metaphor

Word level:

1. Revenge/punishment
2. Abigail Williams
3. Abigail wants to have vengeance on Elizabeth Proctor so she can be with John.

Quote 2: 'there is blood on my head! Can you not see the blood on my head?' (Act 4 – Hale)

Text level:

1. Who says this quote? Who are they talking to? Which act?
- 2.

Sentence level:

1. What language technique is used in the phrase 'there is blood on my head!' (Hint – is there really blood on Hale's head?)
2. What might the blood be symbolic of?

Text level:

1. Reverend Hale in the court room at the beginning of act 4.

Sentence level:

1. Metaphor
2. The blood from the innocent people that have been killed during the witch trials.

3. What might Hale feel guilty about here?
4. What type of sentences does Hale use in the first sentence?
5. What does this show us about how he is feeling?
6. What type of sentence does Hale use here: 'can you not see the blood on my head?'
7. What does this show us about him?
8. How has Hale changed since the beginning of the play?

- 3. He feels responsible for the deaths of the innocent people.**
- 4. Exclamatory sentence**
- 5. He is angry and exasperated.**
- 6. Interrogative sentence**
- 7. This could show Hale's confusion at how extreme things have become in Salem – he was not expecting this when he arrived.**
- 8. He arrived in Salem as an intellectual authoritative figure who was very self-assured, but now that he has witnessed the mass-hysteria in Salem he feels guilty and partly responsible for the deaths of innocents.**