

CRUCIBLE – RESPONSE TO TEXT

IMPORTANT EVENT

Key Statement:

The courtroom scene is pivotal, it allows the audience to see the major characters under intense pressure showing their true personalities and drives the play onto its tragic conclusion.

1. MARY WARREN AGREES TO TESTIFY

Shows that Mary is essentially a good character; she knows what is happening is wrong and wants it to stop. Very brave of her, she is turning on her friends; big question is whether she can stand up to pressure put on her from the girls, especially Abigail Williams, and also the judges who show extreme bias and attack her claims with vigour. Warren is a weak and nervous character with nothing to gain from doing this and plenty to lose.

2. PROCTOR REVEALS HIS SECRET

With Mary's nerve faltering, Proctor tells the court that he had an affair with Abigail Williams in order to ruin her reputation and credibility. Shows just how much he wants her brought down – is willing to throw away his good name to stop her. **SELFLESS** behaviour, typifies Proctor as a character.

3. “HONEST” ELIZABETH TELLS A LIE

Moment of real tragedy and **PATHOS**. Elizabeth is a character who has had nothing but heartache throughout this play, and accidentally ruins her husband's chance of saving the day with an **IRONIC** lie, told to . Proctor now looks like a liar – can only rely on the nervous and weak Mary Warren now.

4. MARY WARREN LOSES HER NERVE

With increasing pressure, Mary Warren jumps ship, accuses John Proctor of being “the devil's man”. Proctor is now utter isolated and now accused of witchery – his only supporter is the now-inneffective Hale. Tragic conclusion to scene. Disappointed in Mary Warren, but hardly unexpected considering the pressure she was under. Only positive of any kind is fact that Abigail Williams **IRONICALLY** will not now get the one thing she started this whole affair for – John Proctor.

<p>Can conclude that Mary Warren confirms her weakness, Proctor his integrity and good character, Elizabeth her love of her husband and Abigail her absolute selfish and ruthless dishonesty & cowardice.</p>
