

The following questions have been written to deepen and expand your students' understanding of the text. They can be used for homework or to prompt classroom discussions.

CHARACTERS

- Can we view Proctor as a tragic hero? Is 'hero' the right word?
- Proctor may be the main character in *The Crucible*, but Hale is the most important. Discuss.
- The greatest sin committed in *The Crucible* is cowardice. Discuss in relation to the character of Mary Warren.
- Rebecca Nurse could not have lived her life more perfectly in the eyes of God. Her crime, like those of so many of the accused in *The Crucible*, is being a woman. Discuss.
- When John chooses to die at the end of the play, do you think his actions are motivated by pride and vanity, or integrity?

CONTEXT

- History has a way of repeating itself. Discuss with reference to the Salem witch trials of 1692-3.
- Think of other plays, books, or films with historical settings. What is the impact on modern audiences/readers of setting a work of art in the past?

MAKING CONNECTIONS

- How do public scandals like the Salem witch trials affect the weakest in society? Can you think of any parallels with the world today?
- Can you think of any groups in society that are persecuted today? Might this be because of fear?
- Although on the surface this is a historical play, the first audiences of *The Crucible* would have recognised that it was also Miller's way of writing about the Communist witch-hunt. What modern events might the subject of the play resonate with today?