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# Predictions

## FOCUS

- To speculate on what this story is about and how it might unfold.

1. Take a close look at each of the quotations below and make a note of:

- which of the characters below might have said it
- why each comment was made.

### Themes:

- unrequited love
- witchcraft
- hysteria
- injustice
- persecution.

“... I will cut off my hand before I'll ever reach for you again.”

said by \_\_\_\_\_

“It is a marvel. It is surely a stroke of hell upon you.”

said by \_\_\_\_\_

“Let him look to medicine and put out all thought of unnatural causes here.”

said by \_\_\_\_\_

“We cannot look to superstition in this. The Devil is precise; the marks of his presence are definite as stone ...”

said by \_\_\_\_\_

“Give me a word, John. A soft word.”

said by \_\_\_\_\_

### Characters in the play

**Abigail Williams:** an attractive, strong-willed teenager who worked for the Proctor household before she was asked to leave because of an affair with John Proctor.

**Reverend Hale:** a forty-year-old scholar who has a good reputation for being thorough in his investigation of witchcraft.

**Mrs Putnam:** a bitter woman, having lost seven children at birth. Witchcraft is the easy explanation for whatever she does not understand.

**John Proctor:** a farmer who was silly enough to have an affair with Abigail while she worked at his home. He did, however, have enough courage to bring it to an end by telling his wife what happened.

**Reverend Parris:** a Puritan minister who has several enemies. He cannot afford to have his good name tarnished or any in his household associated with witchcraft.

2. Now, write down five things you think could happen during the play.

# Hidden motives

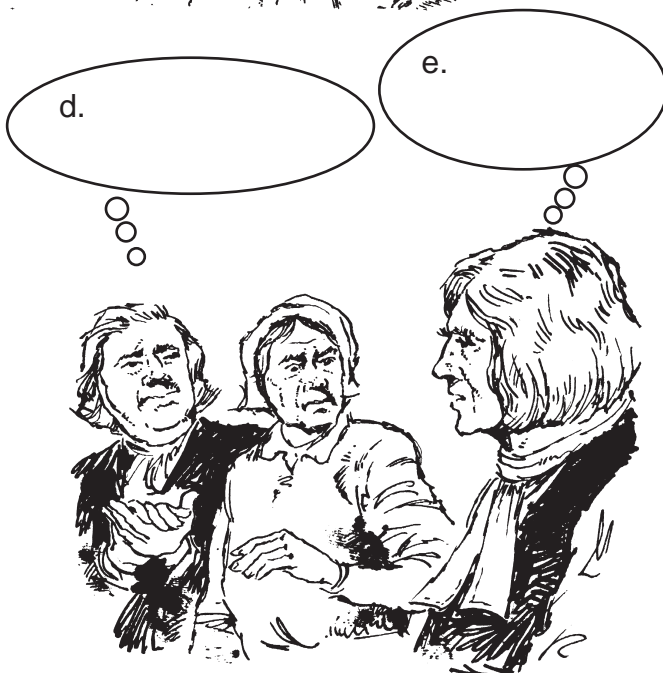
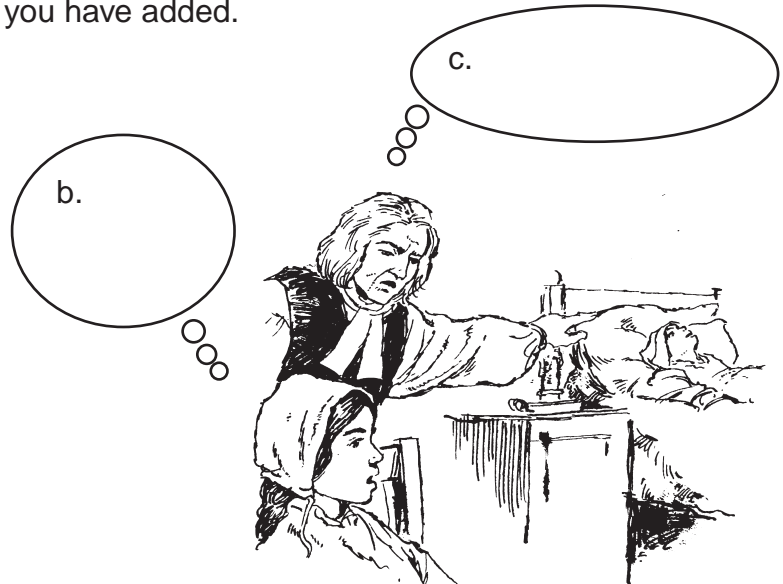
## FOCUS

- To identify motives and hidden meaning.

### Introduction

The story of any play is usually told through the actions and words of each character. This play is somewhat different in that the playwright gives very detailed information about several of his characters at key moments of the story. This information provides the reader with a good grasp of who the characters are and the reasons for their behaviour.

1. Identify the situations in the pictures, then fill in the bubbles with the private thoughts of the characters in each scene. 'G' has been done as an example. Make sure there are good reasons for each of the thoughts you have added.



# John Proctor

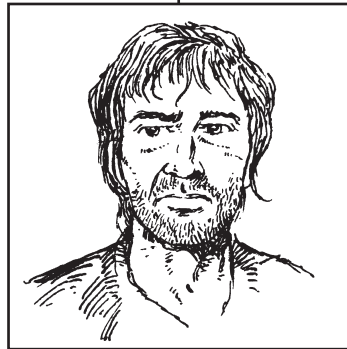
## FOCUS

- To make a character study of John Proctor.

1. To understand a character fully we need to examine what he/she is like, how people respond to them and whether their behaviour has changed during the course of the play. Record your ideas about John Proctor under the headings provided.

**What he says**

**What others say about him**



**His fears**

**What others think about him**

**How he behaves  
(does this change?)**

**How others behave towards him  
(does this change?)**

2. Use the back of this sheet to record quotations or evidence to support as many of your ideas as possible.
3. Now, write a character study of John Proctor. State clearly if his character changes as the play progresses and why any changes have taken place.