



The Crucible Comparing Characters

Comparing and contrasting characters in a text can help you better understand each character's motivations, attitudes, and actions. Analyze the differences between how Reverend Hale and Deputy Governor Danforth behave in connection with the witch trials in *The Crucible*. Be sure to include text evidence to support your responses.

1. What motivates each man?

2. Explain how each man approaches the trials.

3. What kind of thinking does each bring to the process?

4. What viewpoint does each end up having about the trials?

Answer Key

Sample Student Response

1. What motivates each man?

Reverend Hale is motivated by a desire to make a careful and accurate assessment of witchcraft.

“HALE, holding up his hands: No, no. Now let me instruct you. We cannot look to superstition in this. The Devil is precise; the marks of his presence are definite as stone, and I must tell you all that I shall not proceed unless you are prepared to believe me if I should find no bruise of Hell upon her.” (p. 38)

Governor Danforth is motivated by a desire to assert the power of the court and to affirm his black-and-white view of the world.

“DANFORTH: . . . But you must understand, sir, that a person is either with this court or he must be counted against it, there be no road between. This is a sharp time, now, a precise time—we live no longer in the dusky afternoon when evil mixed itself with good and befuddled the world. Now, by God’s grace, the shining sun is up, and them that fear not light will surely praise it.” (p. 94)

RL.11-12.1 Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.

RL.11-12.3 Analyze the impact of the author’s choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a story or drama (e.g., where a story is set, how the action is ordered, how the characters are introduced and developed).

W.11-12.2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.