

The Crucible: Quotations

Directions: Complete three tasks for each of the following quotations:

- a. Provide the context. Who is speaking, to whom, and what happens a little before and after the quotation? What is the significance? Why is the quotation important?
- b. Dig into the characters. What does each of these quotations reveal about the speaker (motivation, intentions, characteristics, etc.)?
- c. Make these universal. Beyond fictional characters in a story, what did Miller want us to think about when he wrote each of these passages? What are each of these *really* about?

Act One

1. "Now look you. All of you. We danced...and I can make you wish you had never seen the sun go down!" (20)
2. "But I will cut off my hand before I ever reach for you again" (23).
3. "You will confess yourself or I will take you out and whip you to your death" (44).

Act Two

4. "I do not judge you. The magistrate that sits in your heart judges you" (55).
5. "Adultery, John" (67).
6. "Is the accuser always holy now?" (77)

Act Three

7. "Come now. You say your only purpose is to free your wife. Good then, she is saved at least this year, and a year is long" (92).
8. "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" (94).
9. "I promise you, Mr. Danforth, I only thought I saw them but I did not" (107).

Act Four

10. "I cannot pardon these when twelve are already hanged for the same crime" (129).
11. "It is a lie! They are innocent!" (132)
12. "No, it is not the same! What others say and I what I sign to is not the same!" (143)