Close Critical Reading of *The Crucible* ACT 1

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| Passages | Paraphrase the text in your own words. Research the definitions of underlined words to help in your rewording. What does the text “SAY”? | What is the significance of the passage? What conclusions can be drawn about the environment, situation, and/or people of this story? |
| “He had himself encountered a witch in his parish not long before. That woman, however, turned into a mere pest under his searching scrutiny, and the child she had allegedly been afflicting recovered her normal behavior after Hale had given her his kindness and a few days of rest in his own house. However, that experience never raised a doubt in his mind as to the reality of the underworld or the existence of Lucifer’s many-faced lieutenants.” | After investigating a woman accused of witchcraft in the town of Beverly, Reverend Hale discovered that she was simply a town nuisance. The girl, the supposed victim of the witchcraft, was normal again after Hale gave her some attention and care. Even though Hale had not discovered that evil or a witchcraft was the cause of the girl’s illness, he still believes that Satan and his tricky two-faced witch minions are soldiering for him on here on earth. | * Belief that anyone has the capacity to be a witch and that earth is a battleground for the human soul. * Hale never discovered a witch in Bev. Is Hale really an expert then? He has never seen a witch in the flesh or tangible evidence of one. * Those accused of being a witch are usually targeted for their sins and flaws and not for witchcraft. * The young girl was fine. Like Rebecca said this is just mischief or the girl seeking attention (response/recognition). There is a parallel between Beverly and Salem. Salem should heed the truth of what happened there. |
| “Ours is a divided empire in which certain ideas and emotions and actions are of God, and their opposites are of Satan. It is impossible for most men to conceive of a morality without sin as of an earth without sky…[good and evil] are always joined to the same phenomenon.” |  |  |
| “The necessity of the Devil may become evident as a weapon, a weapon time and time again in every age to whip men into a surrender to a particular church or church-state. |  |  |
| “A political policy is equated with moral right, and opposition to it with diabolical malevolence…the main role of government changes from that of the arbiter to that of the scourge of God” |  |  |
| “When diabolism rises, actions are the least important manifestations of the true nature of man. The Devil, as Reverend Hale said, is a wily one, and until an hour before he fell, even God thought him beautiful in Heaven.” |  |  |