

'The Crucible' Quote

Themes	Quote	Techniques	Connected Themes
Power and control	"It was, however, an autocracy by consent, for they were united from top to bottom by a commonly held ideology" – Miller	Authorial Intrusion	
Power and control	"[<i>in an open threat</i>]: Let <i>you</i> beware, Mr Danforth. Think you to be so mighty that the power of Hell may not turn <i>your</i> wits?" – Abigail showing her power	Stage Direction Rhetorical Question	
Power and control	"where [Abigail] walks the crowd will part like the sea for Israel" – Elizabeth	Biblical Allusion	
Power and control	"While I speak God's law, I will not crack its voice with whimpering" – Danforth	Personification	Reputation and perception
Transgression and redemption	"Why, it's all simple – I come to do the Devil's work!" – Hale, trying to save people	Situational Irony	Growth and metamorphosis
Transgression and redemption	[<i>MARY WARREN, utterly confounded, and becoming overwhelmed by ABIGAIL'S – and the girls' – utter conviction, starts to whimper... powerless</i>] – Mary nearly achieves redemption, but then fails	Stage Direction	Dissidence and compliance Hysteria and Mob Mentality
Transgression and redemption	"These people had no ritual for the washing away of sins" – Miller	Authorial Intrusion	
Reputation and perception	"Why do you never wonder if Parris is innocent, or Abigail? Is the accuser always holy now? Were they born this morning as clean as God's fingers? I'll tell you what's walking Salem – vengeance is walking Salem." – Proctor	Simile Rhetorical Question	
Reputation and perception	"Postponement now speaks a floundering on my part; reprieve or pardon must cast doubt upon the guilt of them that died till now" – Danforth, cares more about looking just than actually being just	Dramatic Irony	Power and control
Reputation and perception	"And I thought I saw – someone naked running through the trees!" V.S. "I can only say, sir, that I never found any of them naked..." – Parris lying his face off for power	Dramatic Irony	Power and control
Belonging and	"I never knew what pretence Salem was... the lying lessons taught by	Alliteration	Integrity and hypocrisy

identity	those Christian women and their covenanted men! And now you bid me tear the light out of my eyes?" – Abigail	Metaphor	Dissidence and compliance
Belonging and identity	"I cannot mount the gibbet like a saint. It is a fraud. I am not that man" – Proctor	Simile	Transgression and Redemption
Belonging and identity	"You have... come to Heaven's side... Tituba, you are chosen to help us cleanse our village." V.S. "Shall the dust praise him? Shall the worms declare his truth?" – Hale, believes in legacy beyond death until he loses faith in God	Juxtaposition Rhetorical Question	Mortality and legacy
Betrayal and trust	"Proctor, the court is just—" V.S. "I denounce these proceedings! I denounce these proceedings, I quit this court!" – Hale's faith in the legal system is betrayed	Repetition	
Betrayal and trust	"I will give you no name. I mentioned my wife's name once and I'll burn in Hell long enough for that." – Giles	Biblical Allusion	
Integrity and hypocrisy	"I am not empowered to trade your life for a lie" – Danforth, contradicting everything he says	Dramatic Irony	
Integrity and hypocrisy	"In her life, sir, she have never lied... my wife cannot lie" – Proctor, immediately before Elizabeth lies	Situational Irony	Betrayal and trust
Integrity and hypocrisy	"For them that quail to bring men out of ignorance... as you quail now, when you know in all your black hearts that this be fraud – God damns our kind especially, and we will burn, we will burn together!" – Proctor calls out hypocrisy	Biblical Allusion Imagery	
Mortality and legacy	"I have three children – how may I teach them to walk like men in the world, and I sold my friends?" – Proctor, willing to die to preserve his legacy	Rhetorical Question	Transgression and redemption Betrayal and Trust
Mortality and legacy	"Let you fear nothing! Another judgement waits us all!" – Rebecca, absolutely no fear of death due to her faith	Biblical Allusion	
Mortality and legacy	"I never heard no murder done in Salem" (Francis), V.S. "One of the strangest and most awful chapters in human history" (Miller) – The legacy of Salem is corrupted	Dramatic Irony	
Dissidence and	"You wonder yet if rebellion's spoke? Better you should marvel how they	Hypophora	

compliance	do not burn your province!" – Hale		
Dissidence and compliance	"All innocent and Christian people are happy for the courts in Salem! These people are gloomy for it." – Parris		
Dissidence and compliance	"He would not answer aye or nay to his indictment... so he stand mute and died a Christian under the law... he give them but two words. 'More weight', he says. And died." – Elizabeth, talking about Giles	Parataxis	
Order and freedom	"For good purposes, even high purposes, Salem created a theocracy... to keep the community together" V.S. "All organisation is grounded on the idea of exclusion and prohibition... the repressions of order were heavier than seemed warranted" – Miller describing a paradox	Paradoxical Juxtaposition	
Order and freedom	"Four judges and the King's deputy sat to dinner with us... I'll not be ordered... no more!" – Mary, illusion of power	Dramatic Irony	Power and control
Order and freedom	"There is either obedience or the church will burn like Hell is burning!" (Parris), V.S. "I like not the smell of this 'authority'" (Proctor)	Metaphoric Imagery	Dissidence and compliance
Discrimination and prejudice	"They want slaves... Let them send to Barbados for that! I will not black my face for any of them!" – Abigail, racism	Connotation	
Discrimination and prejudice	"It were another sort that hanged till now. Rebecca Nurse is no Bridget that lived three year with Bishop before she married him" – Parris		
Growth and metamorphosis	"Theology, sir, is a fortress; no crack in the fortress may be accounted small" V.S. "It is mistaken law that leads you to sacrifice... Before the laws of God we are as swine!" – Hale	Metaphor Simile	Mortality and legacy Transgression and redemption
Growth and metamorphosis	"I came into this village like a bridegroom to his beloved, bearing gifts of high religion... what I touched with my bright confidence, it died; and where I turned the eyes of my great faith, blood flowed up" – Hale	Metaphor	
Hysteria/fear and mob mentality	"If he brings even one to God, that confession surely damns the others in the public eye... this way, unconfessed and claiming innocence... honest people will weep for them, and our good purpose is lost" – Parris	Personification	
Hysteria/fear and mob mentality	"I heard the other girls screaming, and you, Your Honour, you seemed to believe them... the whole world cried spirits, spirts, and I promise... I only thought I saw them but I did not" – Mary Warren, mass hysteria		

Hysteria/fear and mob mentality	"The play seems to present the same primeval structure of human sacrifice to the furies of fanaticism and paranoia that goes on repeating itself forever as though imbedded in the brain of social man." – Miller (not in the play)	Critic	Belonging and Identity
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