

Work Cited

Miller, Arthur. "The Crucible" Penguin Books, 1995

"The Crucible" Rough Draft Essay

Salem, Massachusetts obtained fame for the mass witch hysteria that broke out in 1692. Salem was populated by Puritans who believed witchcraft was present. These Puritans fell into the hysteria because witches are connected to the devil and Puritans curse evil. The Puritans banished those who work for the devil by hanging them. Arthur Miller wrote a play titled "The Crucible" that includes fictional events that happened in Salem, Massachusetts. The play consisted mainly of false accusations and hangings but remains targeted towards the witch hunt hysteria. A handful of characters are manipulated into thinking that there are witches among them. These characters falsely accused others to protect themselves or to gain power. Due to the false accusations, some characters are willing to protect their identity and keep their pride. Arthur Miller explores the identity of the Puritans of Salem, Massachusetts through their origins and conflicts; he reveals how some Puritans who have less power than others fight for their identity when there is power over another, through conflicts between individuals, and when someone is forced to tell the truth.

Throughout "The Crucible", the act of power over another is being shown. A character

from the play, Abigail Williams, has power because of popularity and manipulates Mary Warren plus other girls. In Act III of “The Crucible”, a court trial remains held to determine whether an accused signifies innocent or guilty. Mary Warren is summoned and is asked by the judge a series of questions that caught Abigail lying but faked seeing the devil in Mary. Assuming that Abigail is using Mary to escape, she defends herself. Towards the end of the trial, Mary demonstrates, “No, I love God. I go your way no more I love God I bless God. Abby Abby, I’ll never hurt you more!” (Miller 36). In other words, this means that Mary Warren does not want to follow Abigail anymore and keep her identity as a Puritan. More evidence that concludes Mary Warren is keeping her pride when she exclaims, “I’ll not hang you! I love God, I love God!” (Miller 36). She clearly defends her identity as a Puritan who loves God. In conclusion, Mary does not want to follow Abigail because Abigail commands Mary to lie which is a sin. She loves God and that is her motive. In this scene, conflicts are being brought against Abigail, but Mary is not the only one having problems.

Besides power over another, conflicts between an individual play a part of identity. Giles Corey, a character from the play calls out Mr. Putnam for land lust and has evidence to support his claim, but does not want to reveal it because it will cause attention and more problems. Unraveling his evidence, Giles is brought to prison and is forced to spill out the truth but refuses. In “The Crucible”, a character named Elizabeth points out, “He would not answer aye or nay to his indictment; for if he denied the charge they’d hang him surely, and auction out his property. So he stands mute and died Christian under the law. And so his sons will have his farm. It is the law, for he could not be condemned a wizard without he answer the indictment, aye or nay” (Miller 41).

This quote reveals Giles as a wise person and cares about his family. He died Christian under the law which means this farm would not be taken away by Mr. Putnam and can be kept by his sons. When chatting to a Judge Danforth, a judge in the play, he claims that his wife is innocent and is being falsely accused by someone who hates him. In “The Crucible”, while speaking to Danforth, Giles argues, “My name is Corey, sir, Giles Corey. I have six hundred acres, and timber in addition. It is my wife you be condemning now” (Miller 26). What this means is that Giles is himself. When he mentions his name is Giles Corey, he is trying to reveal himself to just him. In conclusion, conflicts between an individual made Giles have to fight who he is, Giles Corey. He is who he is. In the situation Giles was in, he was forced to tell the truth, but he was not the only one who was forced.

Finally, forced confession plays a role when keeping one's identity. John Proctor, the protagonist in “The Crucible”, is put in bars because he was accused of witchcraft and does not want to confess. Reverend Hale, Judge Danforth's partner has the idea to call his wife Elizabeth and tell John to confess. John accepts to confess due to the sake of his family and talks to Danforth. In this conversation, he is asked to sign a paper so that his name can be put in the church. When confessing, John Proctor rants, “I have confessed myself! Is there no good penitence but it be public? God does not need my name nailed upon the church! God sees my name; God knows how black my sins are! It is enough!” (Miller 43). This means that since John already confessed and that his name should not be up in the church. He argues about this because he does not want the public to see his name. Judge Danforth later asks him why he does not want his name in the church. His response is, “Because it is my name! Because I cannot have another in my life! Because I lie and sign myself to lies! Because I am not worth the dust on the feet of

them that hang! How may I live without my name? I have given you my soul; leave me my name!" (Miller 43). Due to his hatred of frauds, he does not want to become one. He lies throughout the play and hates himself for doing that. At the end, John Proctor dies and restores his pride by not lying. In conclusion, forced confession led to the fight for pride. It can take a life to keep your identity.

Though there were many characters with different characteristics, "The Crucible" brought a series of Puritans who fought for their identity. In the play, Mary Warren, Giles Corey, and John Proctor had to fight for their identity. Due to the Salem community, these characters had nothing but to contain their pride. Arthur Miller wrote "The Crucible" to reveal that some of the powerless puritans had to fight for their pride through power over another, conflicts between an individual, and when someone is forced to tell the truth. These characters kept their identity because it shows what kind of person they are. Adding to that, they did not want to follow someone else's instructions including Abigail and Judge Danforth. Keeping your identity is significant because it reveals who you are. Everyone should fight for their pride no matter what situation you are in. In conclusion, Mary, Giles, and John from "The Crucible", revealed their struggle to keep their pride. The Salem, Massachusetts witch hunt hysteria demonstrates how people who were accused had to fight for their identity even if it meant their life being taken away.



