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The crucible act 3 irony worksheet answers

Irony contributes to the development of different characters in act 3 of The Crucible. John Proctor has strong values and dislikes hypocrites. While reciting the Ten Commandments, John omits adultery, and then Miller uses situational irony through John's later confession of adultery, which makes him hypocritical and results in his conviction. Miller also uses dramatic irony by showing how the always truthful Elizabeth lies about John's adultery thinking it will save him, but the lie helps to convict him. Arthur Miller's social drama The Crucible presents several types and instances of irony in the process of character development. For example, in act 3, the playwright demonstrates how the protagonist John Proctor is capable of violating his own values and how his wife Elizabeth alters her personality to her husband's detriment. John is the central character of the play. He is a strong-willed and principled man committed to his values and ethics. One of his greatest hatreds is that of hypocrisy. Early in the play, despite his strong sense of ethics, John has an affair with Abigail Williams (which makes him a hypocrite). Thereafter, when the Reverend Hale makes his rounds questioning townspeople about their Christian beliefs, John is asked to recite the Ten Commandments. In his response, he leaves out adultery. In act 3, Miller employs the literary device of situational irony to further develop John's character for his audience. Situational irony occurs when a literary character gets a result that is very different than what is expected. John admits to his adultery in court because he wants to expose Abigail as a liar by revealing her motives for her false testimony. Instead, due to his honesty about the adultery, he is condemned to death for being in league with the devil: Proctor, breathless and in agony: It is a whore! Danforth, dumfounded: You charge—?

Question	Answer
1. Why does Giles think that Putnam is accusing Cilia's wife?	He says "Thomas Putnam is reaching out for land!" In other words, he believes that his wife is being accused because his neighbor wants their land.
2. Danforth says, "The entire contention of the date in these trials is that the voice of heaven is speaking through the children." Explain in your own words what he means when he says this and what the implications are for his decision.	He means here is that all of the evidence for the trials comes from children. It also means that since the "stars" believe that heaven is speaking through the children, their testimony has more weight than an average witness. This is sort of the opposite of a more normal trial, where a child would hardly be considered the expert witness.
3. What actions of Proctor are used against him?	He signed the warrant and blamed the court when they came to arrest his wife, he hasn't come to church often, and he thought on Sunday.
4. How does Proctor try to defend the accused women?	He brings a testimonial to Rebecca, Martha Corey, and Elizabeth's character. Ninety-one people have signed to say that they have never seen evidence that the women are involved in witchcraft.
5. What does Danforth mean when he says "This is a sharp time, now, a precise time—we no longer live in the dusky afternoon when evil mened itself with good and befuddled the world?" Explain in your own words.	Student answers will vary but essentially his point is that good and evil are black and white. Someone can't be both at the same time and come out.
6. What good does Giles offer against Putnam?	He says that Putnam "is killing his neighbors for their land" because if they are executed, he is the only one who has the money to purchase the land that they give up. He also says that the father of one of the girls who spoke out against Jacobs in the trials was given "a fair gift of land."
7. Explain the argument between Giles and Danforth. What does Danforth want? Why does Giles refuse?	

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What No One Has Ever Seen

Questions on Part One of Act Three of The Crucible by Arthur Miller ANSWER KEY

- Why does Giles think that Putnam is accusing Cilia's wife?

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- Danforth says, "The entire contention of the date in these trials is that the voice of heaven is speaking through the children." Explain in your own words what he means when he says this and what the implications are for his decision.

He means here is that all of the evidence for the trials comes from children. It also means that since the "stars" believe that heaven is speaking through the children, their testimony has more weight than an average witness. This is sort of the opposite of a more normal trial, where a child would hardly be considered the expert witness.
- What actions of Proctor are used against him?

He signed the warrant and blamed the court when they came to arrest his wife, he hasn't come to church often, and he thought on Sunday.
- How does Proctor try to defend the accused women?

He brings a testimonial to Rebecca, Martha Corey, and Elizabeth's character. Ninety-one people have signed to say that they have never seen evidence that the women are involved in witchcraft.
- What does Danforth mean when he says "This is a sharp time, now, a precise time—we no longer live in the dusky afternoon when evil mened itself with good and befuddled the world?" Explain in your own words.

Student answers will vary but essentially his point is that good and evil are black and white. Someone can't be both at the same time and come out.
- What good does Giles offer against Putnam?

He says that Putnam "is killing his neighbors for their land" because if they are executed, he is the only one who has the money to purchase the land that they give up. He also says that the father of one of the girls who spoke out against Jacobs in the trials was given "a fair gift of land."
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The Crucible, Act IV: Discussion Questions

- What is Miller's purpose in setting this scene in a jail cell?
- Explain Miller's use of comic relief at the beginning of this act. How is this scene ambiguous?
- Danforth, Hathorne, and Cheever's conversation tells the audience about what changes in Salem in the months that passed between Act III and IV?
- Explain Parris's comment: "Hale has returned to bring Rebecca Nurse to God."
- What is the relationship between the rebellion in Andover and the flight of Abigail and Mercy Lewis?
- Why is it important for the court to get one of the accused "respectable citizens," such as John Proctor or Rebecca Nurse to confess?
- Explain why news of the girls' disappearance worries Danforth.
- Explain Parris's comment that Rebecca will "wake a vengeance" on Danforth.
- Name the recent event that has made Parris afraid for his life and explain its social significance.
- Ironically, why has John Proctor become the court's last hope to save its credibility?
- In what way is Reverend Hale doing the Devil's work?
- Explain Miller's purpose in writing Hale's warning in general terms: "Cleave to no faith when faith brings blood. It is mistaken law that leads you to sacrifice." Think Communism here.
- When Proctor questions whether anyone has confessed, what does this reveal about his inner conflict?
- Explain the metaphor, "a thread to weave into his agony. 'More weight!'"
- When John asks his wife for forgiveness, what revelation does the audience receive about Elizabeth's character?
- Explain the paradox of John's statement that it would be a fraud for him to die for the truth.
- What responsibility does Elizabeth accept for Proctor's lechery? What does she advise him to do?
- What event makes Proctor recant his confession? What is the significance of this event?
- How is this recantation a climax for John Proctor?
- How is this recantation also a climax for the court in Salem?
- What purpose would Miller have in giving this play a tragic ending? Again, think Communism here.

Thereafter, when the Reverend Hale makes his rounds questioning townspeople about their Christian beliefs, John is asked to recite the Ten Commandments. In his response, he leaves out adultery. In act 3, Miller employs the literary device of situational irony to further develop John's character for his audience. Situational irony occurs when a literary character gets a result that is very different than what is expected. John admits to his adultery in court because he wants to expose Abigail as a liar by revealing her motives for her false testimony. Instead, due to his honesty about the adultery, he is condemned to death for being in league with the devil: Proctor, breathless and in agony: It is a whore! Danforth, dumfounded: You charge—? Abigail: Mr. Danforth, he is lying! Proctor: Mark her! Now she'll suck a scream to stab me with, but— Danforth: You will prove this! This will not pass! Proctor, trembling, his life collapsing about him: I have known her, sir. I have known her.

Irony Worksheet 1 | Answer Key

1. **Verbal Irony**
Ex: The waitress expresses gratitude when she intends the opposite.

2. **Dramatic Irony**
Ex: Reader's know that Lucy doesn't like Tom, but Tom believes the opposite.

3. **Situational Irony**
Ex: One might expect that Chef F.olie, a person who prepares dishes that are packed with meat, would enjoy eating meat, when in fact the opposite is true.

4. **Verbal Irony**
Ex: Lawrence expresses the notion that the fernamide is proud fairly, when in fact the opposite is true.

5. **Situational Irony**
Ex: One might expect that the building inspect would have a safe home, when in fact the opposite was true.

6. **Dramatic Irony**
Ex: Tom believes he will continue working, but the reader knows that the opposite is true.

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Act	Type of Irony	Explanation (C) Contextual
1. Judge Danforth states that no accused man should hear the court.	Situational Irony	This is an example of situational irony because the judge expects that John Proctor expected to come to John Proctor expected to come to the judge to the presence of the courts and then John Proctor under the law.
2. The no accused man should hear the court.	Situational Irony	This is an example of situational irony because the judge expects that John Proctor expected to come to John Proctor expected to come to the judge to the presence of the courts and then John Proctor under the law.
3. In Act 3, John Proctor states, "There might also be a charge with the signs on the house that I can live with."	Situational Irony	This is an example of situational irony because the judge expects that John Proctor expected to come to John Proctor expected to come to the judge to the presence of the courts and then John Proctor under the law.
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For example, in act 3, the playwright demonstrates how the protagonist John Proctor is capable of violating his own values and how his wife Elizabeth alters her personality to her husband's detriment. John is the central character of the play. He is a strong-willed and principled man committed to his values and ethics. One of his greatest hatreds is that of hypocrisy. Early in the play, despite his strong sense of ethics, John has an affair with Abigail Williams (which makes him a hypocrite).

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Abigail then claims that she sees Mary Warren's spirit manifested as a bird, trying to hurt her. Mary Warren sobs that she is merely standing in court, but Abigail continues with the charade. Mary Warren claims that the girls are lying, but after Danforth threatens her and Abigail refuses to stop her charade, Mary submits and accuses Proctor of being the Devil's man. She says that Proctor made her sign the Devil's book and made her try to overthrow the court. Danforth orders Proctor to admit his allegiance with Satan, but Proctor cries out that God is dead, and that a fire is burning because the court is "pulling Heaven down and raising up a whore." Hale denounces the proceedings and quits the court. Analysis Amongst the characters in the play, it is Deputy Governor Danforth who seems to provide the most obvious symbol of Senator Joseph McCarthy. Danforth rules over the proceedings as if the accused are guilty until proven innocent, and adopts a harsh and vindictive air. However, Miller does not make Danforth a direct equivalent of the irrational demagogue McCarthy; rather, Danforth is a stern, cold man of unflinching faith in his judicial powers. He does not manifest any particular political ambition, but instead acts to preserve the strength of the court over which he rules. This does make Danforth suspicious of any attack on the plaintiffs and the proceedings, but also allows him some room for flexibility. He uses reason to persuade Proctor to drop his charges against Abigail, telling him that his wife is spared for at least a year and that he need not worry about her execution. It is Danforth's stern rationality that makes him a more disturbing figure: he is not a malicious villain equivalent to Abigail, but rather a man who has intense faith in the integrity of his court. He operates under the assumption that good and evil can be clearly and intensely defined, a flaw of tragic irony. In his desperate hope to sharply delineate good and evil, Danforth becomes the willing accomplice of those who obscure this line. It is Reverend Parris who appears as the demagogue in this act of the play, denouncing all challenges to the court as challenges to Christianity and God himself. Parris is paranoid and foolish, demanding that all ninety-one people who attest to the good name of the three accused women be brought in for questioning. It is Parris' rabid defense of the trials that finally causes Hale to break from the court and offer a defense of the Proctors, Coreys and Nurses.

Parris' demagoguery is placed into even sharper relief once the true reason for the girls' admission of witchcraft is revealed. Parris knows that the trials are a fraud and that the girls are lying, yet continues to push against witchcraft to suit his ends. Miller develops the motivations of the proponents of the witchcraft trials in this chapter. Reverend Parris remains motivated by suspicion and paranoia, while Thomas Putnam moves from an original motivation of grudges against others to unabashed greed. Abigail Williams, in contrast, has moved from self-preservation to a more general lust for power. However, upon the arrest of Rebecca Nurse and Elizabeth Proctor, Reverend Hale now eschews the supernatural explanations for more concrete, legal explanations. He redeems himself from his role as a Pontius Pilate by serving as an advocate for justice. This is significant, for it provides concrete evidence that opposition to the trials does not necessarily mean opposition to law and order. Deputy Governor Danforth espouses the central irony of the witchcraft trials: because there can be no concrete evidence of witchcraft, one must trust the word of the accuser as to whether any witchcraft has occurred at all. This essentially negates the idea of evidence, taking opinion and allegation to be concrete fact. It is this flaw on which Abigail Williams and the other girls capitalize when making their accusations. Miller establishes that it takes only a simple accusation for a person to be convicted of witchcraft. Thomas Putnam uses this for economic gain, coercing his daughter into accusing George Jacobs so that he may purchase his land once Jacobs has been executed. Yet it is Abigail Williams who brings this particular quality into sharp relief.

Abigail is intense and dramatic; she targets the weak-willed Mary Warren, knowing that she will easily break from her alliance with Proctor once challenged. When Abigail pretends to see a yellow bird attacking her, it is an obvious falsehood that is nevertheless admissible as evidence in this court of law. The act ends by encompassing two central ironies. The first of these is that, to prove his own innocence and prove himself faithful to his wife, John Proctor must publicly declare his infidelity. To save Elizabeth and protect himself from an inevitable accusation of witchcraft, Proctor must tear down his name and condemn himself for the crime of lechery. Despite Proctor's obvious sin, this places Proctor as a martyr, sacrificing any chance for a good reputation in Salem, where public reputation is essential, in order to save his wife and others wrongly accused of witchcraft. The second irony involves the testimony of Elizabeth Proctor.

To save her husband's life, she must condemn him for lechery. Miller establishes that she is an honest woman who never lies, yet at the moment in which her honesty is most critical she chooses the noble yet practical lie, and defends her husband. As Hale notes, it is a natural lie for Elizabeth Proctor to tell, yet an incredibly ill-timed one; Elizabeth Proctor chooses dishonesty at the precise moment that her integrity matters the most. Miller continues the theme of revolving accusations in this act when Mary finally breaks down and accuses Proctor of witchcraft. Goody Proctor always kept poppets.

Fearful of her own life, Mary realizes that the only way to save herself is to accuse Proctor of coercing her into overthrowing the court. In this case the accusation contains some truth: Proctor did force Mary Warren into testifying - and yet, in this case the purpose is to promote true justice rather than to obscure it. At the end of this act, Proctor condemns himself by claiming that God is dead. When he states this, he speaks metaphorically, lamenting a world in which the ostensibly just and moral society of Salem can be overturned by one strong-willed girl. Once again Proctor gives in to melodramatics when faced with injustice. He may be correct, yet expresses his righteousness through means that make him an easy target for the likes of Abigail and Reverend Parris. Act 3 of The Crucible is filled with irony, and usually in a way that is always negative, adding to the conflict and stress of the play itself. Irony is typically defined as the opposite of what is expected occurring. As readers that are hopefully distanced from the historical moments of the time, and as critical thinkers, there is a whole lot going on in this act that we find surprising. First of all, let's look at what John, Francis and Corey do to try to save their friends from jail and the noose. The first thing they do is offer a petition, signed by nearly 100 people (a lot in that size of a town), attesting to the Christian and righteous nature of their wives who had been arrested. Logic would dictate that such a weighty petition would hold credence in the courts, and that the courts would take pause and reconsider their accusation of witchcraft. Not so. Instead, Danforth has all of the people who signed the petition arrested. It is sadly ironic that the people who were testifying of people's righteousness are then asked to defend their own. The second attempt is Giles Corey letting the courts know that he has a witness who heard Putnam essentially admit that he was forcing his daughter to take people witnesses, just so he could get their land. Logic would also dictate that this charge be taken seriously; instead, Giles is arrested. Lastly, when John steps forward to admit his affair with Abigail, we would expect the courts would discredit what Abby has said and done, because she is a hypocrite and a liar. Not so.

Instead, in the end, John is arrested for being "the devil's man." One last moment of extreme irony that I would like to point out is when Elizabeth lies to protect her husband's reputation. John is so confident about her honesty that he tells the courts "she hath never lied," ever. But when they ask her if John is an adulterer, she utters the first lie of her life, and says that he is not. This is taken as proof that John is a liar, and his claim of Abby's wickedness is dismissed. It is ironic that a completely honest woman would lie before God and the courts. Those are just a few examples of irony in Act 3, and I hope that helps you to get started. Good luck! Start your 48-hour free trial to get access to more than 30,000 additional guides and more than 350,000 Homework Help questions answered by our experts. Get 48 Hours Free Access Already a member? Log in here. Approved by eNotes Editorial Team eNotes.com will help you with any book or any question. Our summaries and analyses are written by experts, and your questions are answered by real teachers. Join eNotes ©2023 eNotes.com, Inc. All Rights Reserved