

# ***The Crucible, Act I***

## **Motives**

# Abigail

- **Motivation:**
- **Abigail is motivated by her concern for Betty and by her desire to appear innocent. She wants to get in as little trouble as possible.**
- **Hidden?**
- **Absolutely, although she does reveal some details as she tries to remain innocent. She accuses others of witchcraft to make her crimes seem less.**
- **Unaware of motives?**
- **No; Abigail is completely aware of her motives and is trying to stay out of trouble.**

# Mrs. Putnam

- **Motivation:**
- **Mrs. Putnam has lost seven children at birth. She has to have a reason for her grief—the babies were murdered—and she wants to find out who to blame.**
- **Hidden?**
- **No; she tells of the dead children; admits to sending Ruth to Tituba; declares her belief in the presence of the Devil's work**
- **Unaware of motives?**
- **Unlikely; she seems to be controlled by her grief.**

# Reverend Hale

- **Motivation:**
- **Hale is motivated by his faith, his belief in the Devil, and how he has prepared himself to detect the workings of the Devil.**
- **Hidden?**
- **No; he says he can detect witchcraft; others are aware of his reputation.**
- **Unaware of motives?**
- **Perhaps; Hale's confirmation of the presence of witchcraft may "prove" his expertise and raise his status in society.**