

# Arthur Miller's The Crucible

Act Three

Explain Your Actions!

# Action vs. Explanation

- John Proctor admits to having committed adultery with Abigail Williams.
- He believes that by incriminating himself, he will incriminate Abigail, which will help to expose her as a fraud.

- Despite her husband's claim that she cannot tell a lie, Elizabeth Proctor lies to Deputy Governor Danforth.

- She likely thinks that Abigail has accused John of lechery and believes that protecting her husband is more important than telling the truth to the tribunal. She believes that defrauding Abigail will save people's lives and perhaps believes that saving their lives serves a higher principle than being truthful.

- Abigail Williams acts as if she is being tormented by a yellow bird.

- Abigail's actions serve to shift suspicion from herself to Mary Warren. It is also her way to regain power.

- Mary Warren is called upon to denounce the other girls, but she denounces John Proctor instead.

- Mary Warren lacks the courage to stand by the truth and gives in to peer pressure. She also feels threatened by Abigail's power.

- Even though he helped start the investigation, Reverend Hale now denounces it and leaves the court.

- Reverend Hale feels guilty for his part in having started proceedings that have resulted in people being hanged. He also does not believe that the devil is loose in Salem; justice is not being served.