Drama

Fourth year- the second semester

The 5th lecture: د.ليلى باطوق

What was Parris accusing his niece Abigail of? In the quotation that you have discussed, he was discussing with her what she has being doing with the girl but then he was worried about something else related to his niece Abigail other than the thing that they were doing at the forest whether dancing or practicing witchcraft. What is the other thing that he was worried about? He was worried about her dismissal from the service of Proctors family. When she tried to convince her uncle that she was not to be blamed for that and that they dismissed her maybe because Elizabeth is jealous from her and they dismissed her for no real reason. Is he convinced by that? How do we know that he is not convinced by that and that he fears that there is something related to her character that the whole society does not want to work for them? What does he tell her? We know that he is not convinced by whatever justification she has given him. How do we know that? How does he convince her that it is not only the Proctors but it seems that your name is not white? He told her that after you have been dismissed by the Proctors, no other family called you for work. It has been seven months and you have no work at all. So, he is worried that maybe his niece is really guilty of something that she is not wanted and his reputation is in danger. Another evidence that he has against her it seems that he is very worried that maybe her reputation is so bad and this bad reputation is going to affect him as the uncle. He told her that situation is to the extent that Elizabeth refuses to come to church because she might sit next to you and she is not ready to be polluted by somebody like you. Does not this tell you that this character is really a bad character that people do not want to go to a place where she exists? All this makes us as audience wonder about this character Abigail. Is she innocent or is she really an evil character as she has been exposed from the beginning of the play. This is what I have said here that (Parris, to the point: Abigail, is there any other cause than you have told me, ..). This quotation is the one that the uncle is keen to know the real cause of his niece being dismissed from the Proctors family. This is the meaning of the quotation.

We have two quotations after that.

(Abigail: They want slaves, not such as I. Let them send to Barbados for that. I will not black my face for any of them! With ill-concealed resentment at him: Do you begrudge my bed, uncle?)

This is how she justifies herself. She says people want slave; they do not want servants. If they want slave, let them go to Barbados. Barbados is the place where Tituba comes from. It is an African place. So, let them to go there and bring slaves. By black her face, she means to say that I do not want to be a slave. I am not ready to be a slave. She insists that people want slaves and they do not want real servants.

(With ill-concealed resentment at him: Do you begrudge my bed, uncle?)

What is she trying to do here? He is accusing her and she is defending herself. What technique is she using in defense? What is here position her? Is she a victim who is trying to defend herself all the time? She is attacking her uncle. This is a way of defense. Sometimes attacking others is a way of defending of one’s self. He has been attacking her and she has been defending herself. Now she wants her uncle to stop. She wants to stop him from blaming her all the time and accusing her, so she immediately attacks him. She attacks him by reversing the situation blaming her uncle that it seems you are fed up of taking care of me. And she says do you begrudge my bed, uncle? Do you see that it is too much for me to live in your home and that you have spent a lot for me and you are tired of taking care of me? She is attacking her uncle making him think that she is the victim now and he is the evil person who does not want to take care of his niece. This is important here because we see the real beginning of her real character. This is her technique. How does she come safely from all the problems that she involves in? It is by attacking others. This is her techniques. The first person she immediately attacks is her uncle. As you will see later on, she will attack anybody that tries to harm her or to do anything against her.

So, in the opening of the play, we are still wondering what is happening here. A little girl is sick and she is not moving. The father is worried and trying to understand and the niece is trying to explain. People who are coming into the house also talk about things related to the sickness of the daughter to other similar situation in the town. For example, Mr. and Mrs. Putnam come in and they are trying to convince that father that there is witchcraft in the house/ that his daughter has been bewitched by others. And the father does not want to believe in that. To convince him that his daughter is really bewitched, they told him about their own daughter **Ruth** who also does not move. She is sick and she has similar features or symptoms. He asked about the cause of her sickness. They also do not know but they are convinced that she has been bewitched.

Page14:

Through the dialogue, it seems that the father is very keen to avoid the issue of the witchcraft because if any member of his family is related to witchcraft, this means a real danger to his position in the ministry and he household is guilty of witchcraft or there is witchcraft in his house. It means that the members of his house are not good enough/ are not innocent enough as characters so that they were easily used by devils. He is trying to avoid that.

(Parris: Thomas, Thomas, I pray you, leap not to witchcraft.)

He is begging Mr. Putman to stop thinking of witchcraft.

(I know that you - you least of all, Thomas, would ever wish so disastrous a charge laid upon me.)

I know that you are not against me. I know that you do not want me to miss my position.

(We cannot leap to witchcraft. They will howl me out of Salem for such corruption in my house.)

If it is witchcraft, I am finished. They will get him out of Salem and this house will be corrupted by witchcraft. So, what does he care about? It is only his position. First of all, we do not feel it but when the dialogue proceeds, we feel that he is not serious to know the real reason of the sickness of his daughter. There is maybe witchcraft and they might find a solution for her but this will spoil his reputation. So, he is not really seeking the real cause. He is trying to avoid whatever is going to affect his position.

Thomas Putnam will try to convince him that on the contrary, if you go to people and if you say to them that we have discovered witches in the town and if you are the first one to say that you want to clean the town from witchcraft, this is going to be counted for you and not against you. This is how he tries to convince him.

On page 14, look at the paragraphs that starts with the following:

(A word about Thomas Putnam. He was a man with many grievances, .... )

(Thomas Putnam was the eldest son of the richest man in the village......)

(His vindictive nature was demonstrated long before the witch-craft began.....)

(Another reason to believe him a deeply embittered man was his attempt to break his father’s will,.......)

(So it is not surprising to find that so many accusations against people are in the handwriting of Thomas Putnam,.....)

What is your comment on these paragraphs? Is it part of the dialogue? It is **narrative technique** here; it is not a dialogue. What is the significance of narrative technique? Te playwright as you have seen from the beginning of the play is using the narrative technique to give detailed description of setting plus characters. So, he is giving us information about this character (who he is and what his situation is).

(So it is not surprising to find that so many accusations against people are in the handwriting of Thomas Putnam, or that his name is so often found as a witness corroborating the super-natural testimony, or that his daughter led the crying-out at the most opportune junctures of the trials, especially when - But we’ll speak of that when we come to it.)

What is the writer saying here?

A student: it is a technique of suspense. He encourages us to read and think what the situation that makes the trial is.

The doctor: so, he is talking about the trials that will happen later on but he stops in order to create and raise excitement and suspense and to make you anticipate what will happen. The sentence here goes fluently and we are involved with the sentence to know what he is saying about the trial. But then he stops. (that his daughter led the crying-out at the most opportune junctures of the trials, especially when ) when he says especially, you want to know what the special thing that he is talking about. But then he stops and says (But we’ll speak of that when we come to it.). So, the playwright here is raising suspense and excitement in the reader that there is something very special about the daughter of this family that will take action in the trial scenes. We are involved in the situation but then he stops saying that we will talk about that when we come to it.

He almost thinks that people are prejudiced against him, that he is a victim of people and that people do not respect him. Actually his name is always involved in any accusation. He is involved in many problems. There are other people who wanted to become ministers as **Bayley** (the relative of Mr. Putnam). Mr. Putman wanted his relative to become a minister but he failed to get that position. Putman in relation to his character, we always see him that he is related to other characters, not as a friend, but as an enemy. You see that he has bad relations with most of the characters.

So, here he is trying to convince Parris to say the idea of witchcraft and he is convincing him that it would be counted for you that you want to save the town from witchcraft. But still Parris is not convinced until now.

Mrs. Putnam thinks that Tituba has a relation to the witchcraft that has done the previous day. Parris again is surprised because Tituba is his own servant. So, again a member of his household is involved in witchcraft. He questions his servant about that.

Page 16:

Putnam: Don’t you understand it, sir? There is a murdering witch among us,....

This is part of his attempt to convince Parris to call for somebody related to witchcraft. His wife was talking about the children who are dead and she believes that they are dead because of witchcraft. Putnam is saying to him there is somebody who is murdering people in this village and this somebody is a witch.

(bound to keep herself in the dark.)

This witch is hiding in the dark. Nobody knows about her.

(Parris turns to Betty, a frantic terror rising in him. Let your enemies make of it what they will, you cannot blink it more.)

Care about your enemies and about you rivals in the village. Try to think of the matter seriously. There is a witch that is murdering people in the town and you cannot blink it anymore. You cannot avoid thinking about it anymore.

Parris at this time looks at his daughter Betty worrying that >>> is she going to die because of this hiding witch.

(Putnam: You are not undone! Let you take hold here. Wait for no one to charge you - declare it yourself. You have dis-covered witchcraft -)

If you say it before the others accuse you of that, this is going to be counted for you because they will say that you want to save the people from witchcraft. So, he is convincing him to make use of the situation.

Page17:

(Putnam: Now look you, sir. Let you strike out against the Devil, and the village will bless you for it!).

You will be blessed by the people.

(Come down, speak to them - pray with them. They’re thirsting for your word, Mister! Surely you’ll pray with them.)

So, he is advising him to go to the people and pray with them against witchcraft in the village.

Page 18:

Here we have Abigail, Mercy and then Mary Warren who is the servant of Proctors. What does Abigail tell them to do?

A student: to be silent and just to say that they were dancing in the forest.

The doctor: She is teaching the other girls who were with her not to confess what they have been doing in the forest. Through their dialogue we fear that they have been doing something and they do not want to say that something. Again suspense is raised among the reader and the audience (what is it that they were doing. Until now we do not know what they were doing. It is just mentioned that do not say what we were doing. Just say we were dancing although dancing was also prohibited among them). But at least the punishment of dancing is whipping but the punishment of witchcraft is hanging. She is ready to be whipped but not ready to be hanged. But until now we do not know whether it is witchcraft really or not.

(Abigail, holding Mercy back: No, he’ll be comin’ up. Listen, now; if they be questioning us, tell them we danced - I told him as much already,)

So, she is telling the girls to say that they were dancing and she said that she has already told her uncle that they were dancing.

Now Mary Warren the servant of the Proctors is more worried and her worry is very clear in the coming dialogue.

(Mary Warren: What’ll we do? The village is out! I just come from the farm; the whole country’s talkin’ witchcraft! They’ll be callin’ us witches, Abby!)

She seems very worried and now she is worried that they are going to be called witches which mean they will be hanged. Through the dialogue, Abigail convinced her not to confess. We as readers start to think that they have been doing something related to witchcraft. And she says to them (You’ll only be whipped for dancin’, and the other things!). Who is speaking here? It is Mary Warren. The beginning of the speaker is joined with the previous lines in some situations, but here it is the same. So, there is always suspense. There are other things that they have been doing.

Abigail again is saying that she has already told her uncle that they have been dancing. But at this time who wakes up? Betty wakes up. She was unconscious. Now she wakes up and what does she accuse Abigail of doing? She told her that you are not honest. You are saying that you have told my father everything but you did not because you only told him that you dance but you did not tell him about:

(Betty: You drank blood, Abby! You didn’t tell him that!)

Information is given to the reader and to the audience bit by bit. First of all she said you drank blood. We are wondering why she is drinking blood. And she is giving us the reason.

(Betty: You did, you did! You drank a charm to kill John Proctor’s wife! You drank a charm to kill Goody Proctor!)

It seems really that they have been practicing witchcraft and she has drunk blood in order to kill Proctor’s wife. It seems she was really awake and she was able to talk and she wanted to talk only at certain times.

Betty feels that her friends might really endanger their position because if it is known that they had been doing witchcraft, they will be called witches and hanged for that. And she utters this quotation that you are supposed to comment on.

(Abigail: Now look you. All of you. We danced. And Tituba conjured Ruth Putnam’s dead sisters. And that is all. And mark this. Let either of you breathe a word, or the edge of a word, about the other things, and I will come to you in the black of some terrible night and I will bring a pointy reckoning that will shudder you. And you know I can do it; I saw Indians smash my dear parents’ heads on the pillow next to mine, and I have seen some reddish work done at night, and I can make you wish you had never seen the sun go down! She goes to Betty and roughly sits her up. Now, you - sit up and stop this'.)

How will you comment on this quotation? If you discuss a quotation, you will do certain things. First of all, you will start with the context of the quotation. The context is the speaker, the addressed person or the person spoken to, the situation, the cause of saying these things. So, you are introducing the lines to the reader.

Who is going to tell us the context?

This quotation is taken from ‘The Crucible’ by Arthur Miller. Look at the structure of the sentence. It is taken from act one. It is not only between Abigail and Betty. She is talking to all girls. She is talking to Mercy, to Mary Warren, and to Betty. She is addressing all her friends.

Is the context complete clear? No, because we do not know the situation. Part of the context as you said in taken from act one. Try to avoid explaining in details. Just give the situation very briefly. Usually the context should be very brief just to know that the situation of the quotation is.

A student (Kholoud): these lines are taken from ‘The Crucible’ by Arthur Miller. The speaker is Abigail talking to the girls who are joining in the group of dancing. They are in Parris house where his daughter Betty is sick for unknown cause. These girls are afraid of the discovery of their dancing and witchcraft doing in the forest which is considered as a sin in puritan society.

Another student: this quotation is taken from ‘The Crucible’ by Arthur Miller. The speaker here is Abigail a little girl who is corrupt by the power and authority she is given due to the lack of knowledge of the people in her time period. The play The Crucible, by Arthur Miller, shows how Abigail transforms from a normal person into a monster.

The doctor: is this a situation/ is this a context?

The student: this is the introduction for the character of Abigail.

The doctor: In discussing a quotation, there are different things that you will say. There is the context/ the situation. There is the explanation of the lines and there is a comment. It is not wrong to start your introduction by this but what happens is that in this way you miss part of the situation. Yes you have commented in a good way on the situation and the character but you have missed part of the situation. Part of the situation is not given here. So, it is not wrong to comment. You can comment from the beginning but try to make sure that you are also giving the whole context of the speech (the speaker, the character is spoken to, and the situation; when was this speech said).

A student: this quotation is taken from ‘The Crucible’ by Arthur Miller. Abigail is threatening the girls who came with her to the forest. She is warning them from telling the truth. Abigail in fact tried to conjure Proctor’s wife. She drank blood earlier. She says in a threatening tone that if anyone of the girls tell anyone that she has anything to do with witchcraft, she will punish them severely.

The doctor: what would you consider this answer? It is part of explanation. She is explaining the lines. The threatening here has not happened before. It is in the quotation. So, it is not part of the situation. The situation is what has happened before that makes the speaker say the speech. The context or the situation is the thing that makes the speaker to say the quotation.

It is not recommended to say the previous actions in detail that they have been sitting and one of them said this and the other on go out, etc. You do not have to say things as events but you can say that they were discussing, for example, what happened in the forest. And in response to that she is addressing them in this threatening tone.

So, when you are asked for the context, you will say the speaker, the characters spoken to, and the situation (what they are saying this or why the speaker is saying this). Then you move to the second paragraph. In the second paragraph, you will explain the lines and in order not to miss this point, just read the lines and explain them. When you read one line and explain it, if you find that this line, for example, reveals the character of the speaker, the characters spoken to or the characters spoken about, you can comment immediately on it. You can explain and comment at the same time or you can finish explaining the lines and then if you want the last paragraph with you comment. But usually this way might cause you to be repetitive. When you comment in the last paragraph, you have to explain a little bit, so it will be repetition. If you have the skill to avoid the repetition, do it this way. But the first way is to explain and to comment at the same time. This is better because you won’t be repeating yourself.

Kholoud’s answer is very brief and you can add to it that Abigail is reacting to this fear now. In this quotation, she is reacting to this fear by threatening them not to say what has happening that night.

In order to relate between the context and the explanation, you can say that Abigail in these lines is reacting to the fears of convincing of witchcraft and that is why she is warning her friends not to do this and this.

The explanation is clear. Just explain the lines. Through explaining the lines, what comments did you come up with in this quotation?

Is it written in the lines that she is threatening? It is not written in the quotation. But your colleague said that Abigail is threatening. This is part of your comment. This is a comment because her tone here shows that she is threatening. This is what we mean by comment. You explain and comment at the same time. Your comment means that you are not going to repeat what is mentioned in the lines. From her voice/ from her tone, she is threatening. She is not talking to them kindly, calmly and in a good voice. She is shouting and she is threatening them. Comment is like an analysis. So, analysis or comment is the same. Her way of threatening and shouting at them reveals her character. So, the quotation here is definitely reveals the character of Abigail. What technique she is using here? Through the lines, you hear that (I saw Indians smash my dear parents’ heads on the pillow next to mine,). Is this something related to her life in the past? So, the playwright or the quotation here is giving in flashback the history of the speaker. We know about her past life that she has experienced violence since she was a child. This maybe has affected her character to appear in such a violent attitude.

A student: Abigail’s endless capacity for dissembling goes further when she promises to use violence in order to hide the truth. It becomes clear that she is capable of doing whatever to protect herself. Her violent words highlight many facts about her. The death of her dear parents in front of her eyes certainly affected her severely. It is not surprising if she becomes a violent person. This quotation gives the readers very important details about Abigail.

The doctor: this is very good comment about the character. It is about the speaker. Here you are analyzing the character of Abigail, not that she is violent but the cause of her violence and to what extent she is violent. What happened during her childhood might have affected her violent attitude towards her daughter. This is a comment on what has been mentioned here in flashback.

A student: Abigail uses intimidation to create an atmosphere of fear that pervades the entire play. Abigail first demonstrates her penchant for terrorizing others in her threat to the girls: "Let either of you breathe a word, or the edge of a word, about the other things, and I will come to you in the black of some terrible night and I will bring a pointy reckoning that will shudder you . . . I can make you wish you had never seen the sun go down!" This threat foreshadows Abigail's accusations of witchcraft against others. Just as she threatens to harm the other girls through conjuring and witchcraft if they do not do as she says, so Abigail later carefully eliminates her enemies by accusing them of witchcraft.

The doctor: this is another comment. It is not that she is violent and she threatens them but she threatens them through witchcraft. It is a witness that when Betty said you drank blood in order to bewitch Proctor’s wife, this makes us believe that she is greatly involved in witchcraft because she is threatening her own friend that if they do not do what she asked them to do, she will punish them by using witchcraft. She will use witchcraft against her own friends.

A student: in this quotation, she is telling the girls what they are supposed to say. She threatens them that she has a witch power to go anywhere she likes in the dark and threaten them. She is telling them not to tell her uncle about the real story and just tell him what already she said.

The doctor: again this is explanation and comment. This answer again asserts the she is involved in witchcraft. It emphasizes her power of witchcraft.

This quotation is related to a theme in the play. This theme has been mentioned last time. It is **the theme of Lies and Deceit**. People are deceiving each other. So, this theme is clear in this quotation. Abigail as a representative of this theme is very clear in these lines.

In the exam, even if there is a quotation that you did not prepare or we did not read in class, read the quotation, try to figure out who is the speaker, try to connect the lines to what has happened before in order to know the context or the situation, and read the lines and when you explain them, try to reveal the significance of the lines (what the lines reveal, is it a character, a theme or a historical event?). This is your comment on the quotation.

You have given us good examples of good comments on these lines.

The line which she says (I saw Indians smash my dear parents’ heads) >>> you remember the overture was talking about the Indian and the threat that comes from the Indians. So, maybe here Abigail is emphasizing the background of the play that was given by the playwright that the Indians threatened the new inhabitants of America.

While she was threatening them John Proctor came.

(Proctor was a farmer in his middle thirties,....)

Again the playwright here is back to the narrative technique and gives us detailed description of this new character who appears.

(Proctor, respected and even feared in Salem,)

This man is respected in Salem. People fear him.

She sees the servant and she becomes worried now that her master saw her and she tries to justify why she is there. And he tells her go back because her mistress Elizabeth is tired and she needs her.

What happens with Proctors family? The girls leave and Proctor stay with Abigail. What do we understand from their dialogue? >> That there is something between them. We were wondering why Abigail would kill Mrs. Proctor (Proctor’s wife)? Why would she drink blood and practice witchcraft to kill her? Now we in a way understand the cause for her hatred for Mrs. Proctor.

Proctor has heard of the situation of Parris’s daughter Betty and he is enquiring about that.

Page24:

While he is talking with Abigail, (A psalm is heard being sung below.). A psalm is religious song. It is a kind of a song for praying. Parris and the people downstairs in the hall are singing religious songs. Usually religious songs are meant for praying.

When there were religious songs, Betty starts creaming now. She stars screaming when she heard the religious songs.

What do the ladies think now? Mrs. Putnam, for example, says that you see this is the sign that she is bewitched because she heard the religious song, she started screaming and she cannot hear the name of God. This is the sign that she has been bewitched.

Another lady joins now >> Rebecca Nurse. There is a long detail about the Nurses family (Rebecca and her husband). And from that detailed explanation, we know that both of them are very respected by all people in Salem. We also realize that Mrs. Putnam does not like Rebecca. When Rebecca comes towards Betty, Betty comes down. Now she is quiet. So, Mrs. Putnam uses this for accusing Rebecca. She draws the attention of Parris, what is she saying to her over her body that made her quiet? She must be a witch that is using her witchcraft towards Betty. The beginning of accusation against Rebecca starts here in this act by Mrs. Putnam. In the long details, we understand why the Putnams do not like the family of the Nurse (Rebecca and her husband). It is about Bayley his relative that he wants to comes a minister and it is Rebecca’s husband who voted against that Bayley. Actually the Nurses did not have a land at the beginning. They were poor and then they were able to pay the price of the land and they settled at the end.

We notice that in Salem people are divided into different groups.

Page26:

(As we have seen, Thomas Putnam’s man for the Salem min-istry was Bayley. The Nurse clan had been in the faction that prevented Bayley’s taking office. In addition, certain families allied to the Nurses by blood or friendship, and whose farms were contiguous with the Nurse farm or close to it, combined to break away from the Salem town authority and set up Tops-field, a new and independent entity whose existence was re-sented by old Salemites.)

(The Nurse’s relatives and some of their friends).

We know that there are different groups in the town, groups that are with the Putnams and Salem people and the other group is with the Nurse family (their relatives and their friends and people who have lands around them or beside them). All of them have established a new entity or a new fraction and they were against the authority of Salem.

Does Rebecca believe in witchcraft? She is trying to convince Parris that what happened to his daughter is not witchcraft. She heard that he has called for Reverend Hale who is a specialist in witchcraft and she told him that you should not think of witchcraft. And Mr. Putnam told her that how do you justify then what happened to my daughter and Betty? She said they are young girls as she is saying they are pretending and they will be fed up and they will come back to their normal life again. But it seems that the whole people in Salem believe in witchcraft.

In this act also we see beginning of accusation against another person (Proctor). We know Proctor and we know that he is respected by people in Salem. But Putnam here starts the beginning of accusation by trying to spoil his reputation by saying that he does not keep going to church. This was an accusation in Salem at that time. If the person does not go to church at prayers time, this is going to be considered against him. And we will see later on that this will be part of the accusation that will be against him. The authority has a book and people would go and watch people, for example, if you do not go to prayer on Sunday, they would write that and they will count that in three months, you have been absent for church for thirty times. This means that you are not a religious person and this is a crime.

So, he justifies why he does not go to church. He does not know that the church really talks about real religion. He talks only about punishment. If you do not do this, you will go to hell. He says a church should not only be threatening people of hell but it should be talking about real religious things.

Page31:

(Mr. Hale is nearing forty, a tight-skinned, eager-eyed intel-lectual.)

Mr. Hale has arrived now. He is the one who is the specialist in dealing with witchcraft. You have a long explanation about his character.

Page33:

(he felt the pride of the specialist whose unique knowledge has at last been publicly called for.)

What is important is that he is very proud of himself as a specialist of witchcraft. He is grateful that the public know his position. There is long detail about the opinion of people of good and evil. There in a very detailed explanation of the situation.

Page38:

Hale asked him how you discovered the situation of your daughter.

(Parris: Why, sir - I discovered her - indicating Abigail - and my niece and ten or twelve of the other girls, dancing in the forest last night.)

Hale immediately was surprised.

(Hale, surprised: You permit dancing?

Parris: No, no, it were secret -)

So, this dialogue shows to us how people think at that time and how dancing was not permitted at that time.

Page39: Rebecca does not like the family of Hale. She says to him that she will go in order to pray for God to save the village from this situation.

Page41: Parris tries to convince Hale the thing to appear as witchcraft. He does not want his daughter to be related to witchcraft. He is thinking of his position that this might harm his position as a minister (how is it that his house is corrupted with witchcraft!). It is believed that devils only inhabit evil people. Hale is trying to say to him that even good people can be hanged. So, it is not necessary that your daughter is evil and that is why she was bewitched or she was used by the devil.

(Hale: What victory would the Devil have to win a soul already bad? It is the best the Devil wants, and who is better than the minister?)

He says the devil does not want to spoil the life of an evil person. This is not victory for the devil. It is more victory if he spoils the life of a good human being. This would be more challenging for the devil. This is the best challenge for the devil to spoil the house of a minister that is the sensuous house in the town.

Page42:

Confession now is starting. Giving names/ accusing people is starting here. At the end of the page: here Abigail starts to confess. She accused Tituba that she was conjuring the spirit of the Putnam’s dead children. Hale was asking her some questions whether there were creatures with them. She said that there was a frog that jumped into the boiling water that they have. Abigail was clever and her character and her wit appear in her dialogue with Hale.

Abigail: I never called him! Tituba, Tituba...

Parris, blanched: She called the Devil?

To free herself, she said no, I did not call the devil. It was Tituba who called the devil. She would be believed because Tituba was a slave. It was easily believed by others.

Now both of them are accusing Tituba. (at the bottom of page 43).

(Hale: Why can she not wake? Are you silencing this child?)

He is accusing Tituba that she is using magic or witchcraft to make Betty not speak and confess of them. Hale here is very convinced that Tituba is a witch.

So, in order to justify herself, she starts accusing others.

Page45:

Tituba said that it is not me that bewitched the children in the village. I think that there is somebody else is bewitching the children.

(Tituba: I don’t know, sir, but the Devil got him numerous witches.)

She says I am not the only witch. The devil has got many witches in the village. In order to make her confess who these witches are, Hale is trying to tell her that if you tell us, God will forgive you and you will be a helper of God.

In the following dialogue (p46, p47), we can see the character of Hale and how he convinces her to tell them.

I want you to read page 47 carefully because this page shows you how accusations come just like this. You remember the idea of McCarthyism and how people were accused for only suspicions without evidence. It is the same here. This is very much revealed in act one.

Mrs. Putnam says she was the midwife. She was the one who delivered my baby and my babies were dead. She must be the witch that killed my babies.

Now they are accusing a person called Sarah and a person called Osbum.

Page48:

Abigail also would start giving names.

(Abigail rises, staring as though inspired, and cries out.

' Abigail: I want to open myself! They turn to her, startled. She is enraptured, as though in a pearly light. I want the light of God, I want the sweet love of Jesus! I danced for the Devil; I saw him; I wrote in his book; I go back to Jesus; I kiss His hand. I saw Sarah Good with the Devil! I saw Goody Osburn with the Devil! I saw Bridget Bishop with the Devil!)

She is giving a third name now. The names increase. We have three names (Sarah Good, Osbum, and Bridget Bishop).

(As she is speaking, Betty is rising from the bed, a fever in her eyes, and picks up the chant.

Betty, staring too: I saw George Jacobs with the Devil! I saw Goody Howe with the Devil!)

And then they continue. Each one starts giving names.

Betty, calling out hysterically and with great relief: I saw Martha Bellows with the Devil!

Abigail: I saw Goody Sibber with the Devil! It is rising to o great glee.

BETTY: I saw Alice Barrow with the Devi1!

This page is only giving names of people. Each one is giving a name and accusing others without any evidence. It is like the idea of confession in McCarthyism. How does act one end?

They are accusing certain people. Look at the last line.

On their ecstatic cries

THE CURTAIN FALLS

It is the ecstatic cries of the girls. What does this mean? How were they giving the names? They were not afraid or worried. Ecstatic means like when you are happy and when you are in your best self. It is not a game for them now. It seems it is like a game. Just before Betty was sick and she could not move and now she is giving names with the girls, each one in turn. The end of act one prepares the audience for the historical situation that will take place in the following act. Is accusing people easy? For the reader, this will make us wonder what will happen to these people that have been accused like this. They are accusing them of being witches. This means they will be hanged. We will wonder now how will all these accusations be handled in the following acts.

The setting of act two is Proctor’s house. We meet the Proctor’s family here. We have already met John Proctor and we know that he has a wife. And that Abigail wants to kill his wife because of her previous relation with Proctor.

We see there is something between the husband and the wife. When the husband came, his wife Elizabeth was suspicious that he was in the town and he had meet Abigail. Now it is eight days after act one.

Page 56:

While the Proctors Elizabeth and her husband were talking, Mary Warren their servant came. And as usual she is late. Proctor was shouting at her the she is always late. I told you not to go to Salem town anymore but you do not hear. When she came, she came as a strong person. She did not listen to him as a servant. What does she give Elizabeth? She gave her a doll saying that while I was sitting in the court I made it for you. And she gives it to her. And she told them what has happened in Salem that there are people who have been accused of witchcraft and the trials are going on. She told them that 39 people have been accused of witchcraft. By the end of act one, we have seen that the girls have been in seven names. Now she is saying that it is 39 and the number is increasing.

Mary Warren tells him that even his wife Elizabeth has been mentioned but she not sure whether she will be accused or not.

P61: it is Abigail that accused Elizabeth.

(Elizabeth: It is her dearest hope, John, I know it. There be a thousand names; why does she call mine? There be a certain danger in calling such a name - I am no Goody Good that sleeps in ditches, nor Osburn, drunk and half-witted. She’d dare not call out such a farmer’s wife but there be monstrous profit in it. She thinks to take my place, John,)

Here Mary Warren told them that Elizabeth’s name has been mentioned with the accusation but it seems that the accusation is not determined on her. She has not been officially accused until now. Elizabeth says to her husband that I am sure that it is Abigail who accused me but she thinks that she will easily do that. She is wrong because I am the wife of the respected farmer and nobody will believe her although I know her intention. Her intention is to take my place. She discovered the past relation with her husband.

Proctor: She cannot think it! He knows it is true.

Although he tells her she cannot think of that but actually he knows it is true. He knows Abigail and he knows how determined she is.

Page 63:

Hale: I am a stranger here, as you know. And in my ignorance I find it hard to draw a clear opinion of them that come accused before the court. And so this afternoon, and now tonight, I go from house to house - I come now from Rebecca Nurse’s house and

He said I am not a member of your town. And when I hear names I cannot really say whether their accusation is right or not. I do not know these people.

Elizabeth, shocked: Rebecca’s charged!

He tells her that Rebecca is one of the accused people. Elizabeth is surprised because Rebecca is respected by all people in the town. So, she surprised that she was also accused.

Now Hale has come with certain accusations against Proctor. One of these accusations is that Proctor is not a religious person. He does not go to church and he did not baptize two of his sons. He has three sons and two of them are not baptized. For Christians, they must baptize their sons in the church. Moreover, he said to him:

Page 64:

Hale: Twenty-six time in seventeen month, sir. I must call that rare. Will you tell me why you are so absent?

In the books of the authority, it has been pointed out that you do not go to church. You have been absent in church for a long time, why is that?! And why you are not baptizing your sons!

Page 69:

They are talking about witches in the town.

Proctor - he knows this is critical, and is striving against his disgust with Hale and with himself for even answering: I know not what I have said, I may have said it. I have wondered if there be witches in the world - although I cannot believe they come among us now.

He will be also accused that he does not believe in the existence of devils. He does not believe that devils exist among people in the historical sense that people talk about. He knows that the bible speaks of witches and he does not deny that but he cannot understand the historical situation of people believing in witchcraft in all details of their life.

Page 70:

(Elizabeth, to Hale: I cannot think the Devil may own a woman’s soul, Mr. Hale, when she keeps an upright way, as I have. I am a good woman, I know it; and if you believe I may do only good work in the world, and yet be secretly bound to Satan, then I must tell you, sir, I do not believe it.)

She says when a woman is decent, the devil cannot own her. She is saying that a descent woman will not be conjured by the devil.

A student: does this mean that Abigail is conjured by the devil and that is why she is indecent?

The doctor: yes, she is hinting to that. She knows that Abigail is the one who accused her. She wants to say that it is Abigail who controlled by the devil because of her evil character. But for herself, she is sure of herself and she knows that she cannot be conjured by the devils.

(Hale: God keep you both; let the third child be quickly baptized, and go you without fail each Sunday in to Sabbath prayer; and keep a solemn, quiet way among you. I think -)

It seems that Hale is sympathetic with them and he does not want people to have an accusation against them. So, he said to them:

Go back and baptize your child and go to church so that nobody will be able to accuse you.

The situation does not end here because other characters will come (**Giles Corey**, **Francis** **Nurse** and **Cheever**). Cheever comes with the intention to arrest Elizabeth here. And they will be asking about the puppet/ the doll. When they come and they were searching for the puppet and Proctor says that we do not have a puppet here. He forgot about the new puppet. But it is on the chair. He said this is not their puppet. It is belongs to the servant and when the servant comes, she admits that it is her puppet and she made it when she was in the court that day and stored the needle inside the doll. And then she gave it to Elizabeth. He takes the puppet and then he has lifted the puppet’s skirt and becomes shocked. They said why are you shocked? There is a needle. Hale and Proctor were surprised. The needle is in the stomach. They told them that Abigail was stabbed with a needle in the same place. Still they do not understand what the relationship is. They accuse now Elizabeth of bewitching Abigail. You know the idea of sticking needles in a puppet; it means that this will happen to the same character that is representing that doll.

Here in act two, Elizabeth is accused of using witchcraft and using this doll to bewitch or to kill Elizabeth.

Page 71:

(Hale, pleading: Nurse, though our hearts break, we cannot flinch; these are new times, sir. There is a misty plot afoot ......).

In this quotation, Hale does not believe when he heard that it does not belong to her but he is not sure of that.

The exam will be in act one and act two until page 70. (The questions about the events until the end of act two but the quotations will be until page 70).