

Candidate 3 evidence

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1.	Drama (Section 2)	
	<p>'The Crucible' is an iconic and powerful play written by the acclaimed playwright Arthur Miller, set in the repressing Puritan town of Salem, Massachusetts, in 1692. Miller controversially explores the hysteria and paranoia that was fashioned by the McCarthyism movement against the widely spread fear of communism in America. He achieves this through the allegory of the Salem Witch Trials, a bold political denunciation at a time when most viewed the act of criticising the HUAC (House of Un-American Activities) as risky and audacious.</p> <p>Miller uses a variety of dramatic techniques such as stage directions, prose lines, symbolism and interesting characterisation to explore the theme of reputation through the struggle of the protagonist John Proctor, who is a pillar of the community and yet faces difficulties throughout the course of the play.</p>	

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	<p>interestingly Miller explores the theme of reputation in Act 1 through the character of John Proctor. He introduces the character of John Proctor in this prose insert before he walks on stage for the first time. He writes "He is a sinner, a sinner not only against the moral fashion of the time but against his own own vision of decent conduct." Immediately, Proctor's characterisation is implied and importantly this inner conflict. Proctor is a man like many others in the play; he takes great pride in his reputation and wants it to highlight him as an upstanding and ethical Christian. Despite this, we soon find that he has behaved adversely against his beliefs by committing adultery with his former servant Abigail Williams, who is the main accuser in the witch trials. Proctor feels exceptionally guilty about this sin because it goes against what he maintains as morally correct. He also fears that the public will come to know of this, and is aware that this will destroy his reputation. As such, Miller writes that Proctor views himself "as a fraud". This shows that he has a low opinion of himself, and we know this before we have even met him.</p>	

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	<p>When Procter finds Abigail by the sick Betty's bedside, he and Abigail have an intense conversation in which their affair is made clear to the audience. He Procter draws himself away from Abigail's passionate sayings, saying "Abby, I may think of you softly from time to time but I will cut off my hand before I'll ever reach for you again." Here, Procter admits that he still yields feelings for Abigail, even though he is determined to not allow their affair to continue.</p> <p>The use word choice of "softly" connotes his lingering affection and sense of tenderness he has for her. We also note the use of "Abby" which is obviously a pet name for Abigail used by her close friends.</p> <p>John Procter, a married man who was also her employer, should certainly not be referring to her in the same way. He However, his vivid use of the hyperbole "I will cut off my hand" suggests that he has his heart set on erasing any further romantic relationship he had with her. This shows how shameful he feels, although he still feels attracted to her. Through the use of characterization, Miller has helped to give us an insight on the ^{interesting} theme of reputation through the struggle of John Procter, who</p>	

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	<p>feels is guilty for not being faithful to his wife; it reveals his him as a tragic hero, who will end in experience a downfall at the end of the play.</p>	
	<p>Act 2 is set entirely in Proctor and Elizabeth's house, and it is clear that the the theme of reputation is being explored as Proctor is trying to talk to Elizabeth who is not being very communicative with him as they eat dinner. Miller writes "Proctor: I think you're sad again. Are you? Elizabeth: You come so late I thought you'd gone to Salem again this afternoon." The question Proctor asks his wife creates a tense and uncomfortable tone for the rest of their conversation. It reveals how much of a dilemma he believes he's in as Elizabeth isn't being particularly sociable, putting him under stress and reminding him of his affair with Abigail Williams. In addition, the fact that Elizabeth comments on how 'late' he arrives suggests the strain that his actions have had on their relationship. She is hinting at how they haven't spent time with each other for months. Therefore, Miller uses the ^{interesting} theme of reputation to convey that Proctor is struggling, as he is unable to maintain his relationship with his wife.</p>	

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	<p>As their dialogue intensifies, Procter says that he feels he is "every moment judged for lies, as though I come into a court when I come into this house". This idea foreshadows the actual judgement he will face later in the play when he and Elizabeth go to jail. Procter is implying that he feels constantly scrutinised in his own home by his wife, even though he is remorseful and trying to change maintain his image as a good Christian, even though she knows otherwise. He is yearning for her approval with all he does. Through the use of this symbolism, Miller shows the interesting theme of reputation through John Procter who is internally grappling with himself. He wants to change for the better, even though Elizabeth is still upset by what he does. This shows how reputation is a challenge for him as the play progresses.</p>	
	<p>It is clear that the interesting theme of reputation is being explored again in Act 3, when Abigail accuses Elizabeth of witchcraft. After Elizabeth has been accused, Procter is enraged and exclaims to Mary "You will tell the court what you know...."</p>	

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	<p>we will slide together into our pit. That goodness will not die for me!" Miller's use of the metaphor here shows that they are damning themselves by going to court; "pits" has connotations of Hell, darkness and pain. Proctor is aware that by going to court he is risking his reputation as the the Abigail may expose their affair. The fact that he will still go suggests a certain certain nobility of character in him, which is important in considering him as a tragic hero. He also describes Elizabeth as "that goodness", suggesting that he is putting her over his reputation, conveying his sense of self-sacrifice. This shows the interesting theme of reputation as he is trying to force himself not to care about his affair potentially scarring his image.</p>	
	<p>In court, Proctor then finally lashes at at Abigail, saying "How do do you call Heaven! Whore! Whore!" the use of expletives suggest his rage. The stage directions connote his violence, suggesting that his affection for Abigail has turned to hatred. He is feeling very tortured that he must expose himself as an adulterer and ruin his image, so that the court can see sense and he can</p>	

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	<p>Save his wife. This is obviously not an easy decision for him, as he is described as being "in agony". This reinforces the deep shame and anger he feels towards himself as he recounts the truth of their affair. He is furious that Abigail is being admired and hailed as a saint whilst he is being eaten up by the regret and guilt of what he did with her.</p> <p>Through the use of stage directions, Miller has conveyed the interesting theme of reputation as Proctor admits to his affair with great difficulty.</p> <p>He is the same Proctor</p> <p>Miller explores the interesting theme of reputation again in Act 4 through the struggle of John Proctor. During the confession, Proctor says: "(with a cry for his soul) 'Because it is my name!... I have given you my soul; leave me my name!'" The stage directions here show the intense emotions in these lines. Proctor is in a state of mental agony. He is torn between his desire to live but also his desire to live without sin as a good and ethical Christian. He does not want to be seen as someone who falsely confessed ^{confessed} whilst good Christians like Rebecca Nurse maintain their</p>

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	<p>innocence and go bravely to their deaths. Through the use of stage directions, Miller has explored the interesting theme of reputation through the struggle of John Proctor. Proctor feels regrets his affair with Abigail Williams, and feels he has to result surrender to the horrendous result of his actions; he is going to be hanged for witchcraft.</p>	
	<p>In conclusion, more than 30⁷⁰ years since it was first performed at the peak of the hysteria of the Red Scare in America, Miller's iconic and powerful play 'The Crucible' continues to warn people of the danger of allowing paranoia and prejudice to corrupt our communities. Through the expert use of stage directions, characterisation, symbolism and prose inset, Miller has successfully explored the interesting theme of reputation through the struggle of the protagonist John Proctor, who struggled throughout the play with his image. The play reminds me that it may take the most extreme test^{test} test to reveal how much people care about their honour and reputation. It is how we act under pressure that unveils who we truly are.</p>	