

Description and Interpretation of Extract from *The Crucible*, Act III

Events	<i>Fabel</i>
Hale defends Proctor and accuses Abigail	Hale tries to re-assert the rule of law to counter the obvious injustice
Abigail invents the 'bird'; the other girls join her; the credulous adults look for the 'bird'	Abigail seeks to cover the truth with more fantasy and uses the most fitting means available to her in the hope that powerful adults will believe her
Abigail accuses Mary of sending the 'bird'	Abigail attacks the person most likely to expose her and the girls
Mary defends herself and is supported by Proctor	Mary still has faith in the justice system
The girls continue; Danforth believes them	Abigail gains an important ally
After sustained pressure, Mary is about to change her story	Mary doubts the court's ability to deliver justice
Proctor tells Mary that God damns liars	Proctor invokes an alternative source of justice that exists outside the court: divine justice
The girls intensify their 'performance'	The potential for Proctor's stratagem to succeed evinces greater vigour from the girls
Mary denounces Proctor	Mary opts for deliverance on Earth rather than in heaven