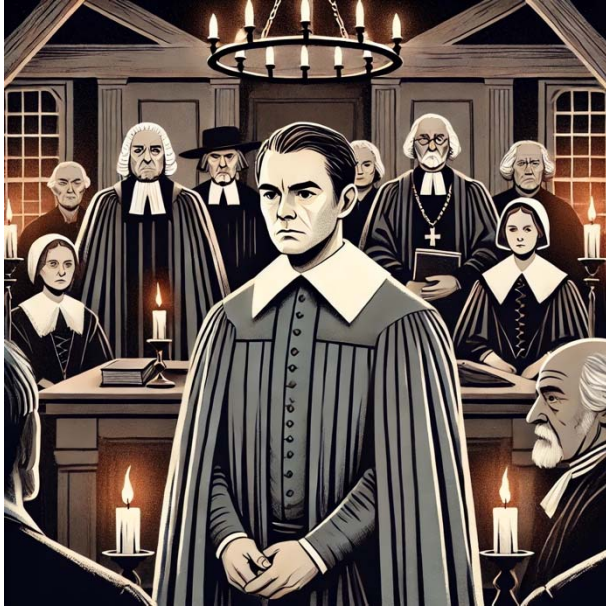


Name _____



Proctor's Choice

John Proctor was a respected farmer in Salem, Massachusetts. He was known for being honest and hardworking, but he carried a heavy secret—he had once made a terrible mistake. He had an affair with Abigail Williams, a young woman in the town. Even though he regretted it deeply, his guilt stayed with him. When Abigail

started accusing people of witchcraft, Proctor knew she was lying. However, speaking out meant risking his own reputation.

At first, Proctor tried to ignore the trials, but as more innocent people were accused, he realized he couldn't stay silent. He decided to tell the court the truth: that Abigail was lying and only wanted power. But when he admitted his past mistake, the court didn't believe him. Instead, he was accused of witchcraft himself.

Proctor faced a terrible choice. If he falsely confessed to being a witch, he would live. If he told the truth, he would be hanged. At first, he considered lying to save his life. But deep inside, he knew that his honesty was the most important thing he had left. He could not live with himself if he signed his name to a lie. In the end, he chose to die rather than give up his integrity.

Arthur Miller's play *The Crucible* shows that true redemption comes from honesty and personal integrity. Proctor's struggle with guilt helped him understand that doing the right thing, even when it's difficult, is what truly matters. His story reminds us that being a good person is not about never making mistakes—it's about taking responsibility for them.