

Taking a Closer Look: *The Crucible*

Objective: Analyze character traits through examining elements of drama

Characterization is when the author gives us clues as to who characters really are. Character traits can be revealed through what the author tells us, what the other characters say about him/her, what the character does, what the character says, or what the character thinks. Each type is important because it provides the reader with different points of view and information about certain characters.

Directions: Closely read the passages below from Act 1 regarding Abigail. First decide whether the passage is an example of stage directions, monologue, dialogue, soliloquy, or an aside. You may not use all the terms. Then determine which type of characterization the author used (listed above). Finally, decide what this passage shows the reader about Abigail's true colors.

Passage from text	Element of Drama	Characterization Type	Character Trait
(He is bending to kneel again when his niece, Abigail Williams, seventeen, enters – a strikingly beautiful girl, an orphan, with an endless capacity for dissembling/stalling. Now she is all worry and apprehension and propriety.)			
HALE: Soup? What sort of soup were in this kettle, Abigail? ABIGAIL: Why, it were beans—and lintels, I think, and— HALE: Mister Parris, you did not notice, did you—any living thing in the kettle? A mouse, perhaps, a spider, a frog---? ABIGAIL: That frog jumped in, we never put it in! HALE: Abigail, it may be your cousin is dying—Did you call the Devil last night? ABIGAIL: I never called him! Tituba called him!			
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 can make you wish you had never seen the sun go down!			
ABIGAIL: Give me a word, John. A soft word. PROCTOR: I come to see what mischief your uncle's brewin' now. Put it out of mind, Abby. ABIGAIL: John—I am waitin' for you every night. PROCTOR: Abby, you'll put it out of mind. I'll not be comin' for you more. You know me better.			

Constructed Response: Which element of drama allows the author to best develop a character? Explain your answer with details and examples from the reading.