

Accompanying materials

Rough Justice in Salem - Worksheet 1

FLAW 1

Watch "Fine tuning the role of John Hale"

Read the following excerpt from *The Crucible*:

[Enter REVEREND JOHN HALE of Beverly.]
Mr Hale is nearly forty, a tight-skinned, eager-eyed intellectual. This is a beloved errand for him; on being called here to ascertain witchcraft he felt the pride of the specialist whose unique knowledge has at last been publicly called for.

Now finish these sentences:

John Hale was not the best person to investigate the accusations of witchcraft in Salem because_____

This means the justice system in Salem was flawed because_____

FLAW 2

Read the following excerpt from *The Crucible*:

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 a great glee.]

PUTNAM: The Marshal, I'll call the marshall! [PARRIS is shouting a prayer of thanksgiving]

BETTY: I saw Alice Barrow with the Devil! [the curtain begins to fall.]

HALE [as PUTNAM goes out]: Let the marshal bring irons

Now finish these sentences:

The way in which people were accused of witchcraft in Salem was unfair because _____

FLAW 3

Watch "Mary Warren's journey"

Read the following excerpt from *The Crucible*:

MARY WARREN [in a fearful squeak of a voice]: Mr Proctor, very likely they'll let her come home once they're given proper evidence.

PROCTOR: You're coming to the court with me, Mary. You will tell it in the court.

MARY WARREN: I cannot charge murder on Abigail.

PROCTOR [moving menacingly toward her]: You will tell the court how that poppet came here and who stuck the needle in.

MARY WARREN: She'll kill me for sayin' that!

Now complete this sentence:

Mary Warren was not a reliable witness because _____

FLAW 4

Read the following excerpt from *The Crucible*:

ELIZABETH: You – have been tortured?
PROCTOR: Aye. [...]
ELIZABETH: Giles is dead.
[He looks at her incredulously.]
PROCTOR: When were he hanged?
ELIZABETH [quietly, factually]: He were not hanged. He would not answer aye or nay to his indictment; for if he denied the charge they'd hang him surely, and auction out his property. So he stand mute, and died Christian under the law. And so his sons will have his farm. It is the law, for he could not be condemned a wizard without he answer the indictment, aye or nay.
PROCTOR: Then how does he die?
ELIZABETH [gently]: They press him, John.
PROCTOR: Press?
ELIZABETH: Great stones they lay upon his chest until he plead aye or nay.

Now finish this sentence:

Confessions of guilt were not reliable in Salem because_____

FLAW 5

Watch "Class differences"

Read the following excerpt from the *Crucible*:

HALE: I cannot say he is an honest man; I know him a little. But in all justice, sir, a claim so weighty cannot be argued by a farmer. In God's name, sir, stop here; send him home and let him come again with a lawyer –

DANFORTH [patiently] Now look you, Mr Hale –

....

HALE: I have this morning signed away the soul of Rebecca Nurse, Your Honour. I'll not conceal it, my hand shakes yet as with a wound! I pray you, sir, *this* argument let lawyers preset to you

DANFORTH: ...In an ordinary crime, how does one defend the accused? One calls up witnesses to prove his innocence. But witchcraft is ipso facto, on its face and by its nature, an invisible crime, is it not? Therefore, who may possibly be witness to it? The witch and the victim. None other. Now we cannot hope the witch will accuse herself; granted? Therefore, we must rely upon her victims – and they do testify, the children certainly do testify. As for the witches, none will deny that we are most eager for all their confessions.

Therefore, what is left for a lawyer to bring out?"

Now finish these sentences:

Danforth's comments about the nature of the crime of witchcraft mean that a fair trial is impossible because_____

The justice system in Salem is flawed because_____
