

The truth did not serve the citizens of Salem well in Arthur Miller's play *The Crucible* because time and again lying benefits characters more than telling the truth. One clear example of this is when Tituba lies in Act One during questioning. Her life is threatened, and in order to protect herself, she lies to Reverend Hale by admitting to conjuring spirits and signing Satan's book. Her lies only begin the chaos and it seems as if they almost encourage the other girls to lie as Abigail and her friends get to see the benefits of being untruthful. Mary Warren is another example of a character who proves lying is more beneficial than telling the truth. Mary is dragged to the court by John Proctor in order to admit that she and the other girls are lying about the witch hysteria. It is sad but not surprising to see how Mary caves in to the pressure of the girls and the court's questions by turning on Proctor and claiming that he is a witch. Lastly, John Proctor himself is a character who exemplifies the fact because he could have saved himself by giving into the lies. Proctor is asked to confess to witchcraft in order to save his life by lying but ultimately does not. Unfortunately it is only at the end of his life that Proctor realizes his true inner goodness and refuses to give in to losing his name and hurting those around him who are also accused. Again and again the characters in the play *The Crucible* show that lying is a better course of action than telling the truth.