

Dialectical Journal Examples

Quote	Analysis
<p>"Thomas, Thomas, I pray you, leap not to witchcraft. I know that you – least of all you, Thomas – would ever wish so disastrous a charge laid upon me. We cannot leap to witchcraft. They will howl me out of Salem for such corruption in my house." (Rev. Parris, pg. 14)</p>	<p>EXTERNAL CONFLICT: MAN vs. MAN</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> When I read this quote, I immediately become upset because of Reverend Parris' actions. His daughter is in a coma, the cause of which has not been discovered, and he is worrying about himself. This quote is an example of conflict. I know this because Parris' conversation with Putnam betrays his fear that the rumor of witchcraft will lead to him losing his reputation and job. Hence, he is in conflict with his neighbors, a typical man vs. man example of external conflict. The author's purpose in this is to show how the community's leaders are held responsible for the actions of the people they lead. The words "disastrous" and "corruption" allow the reader to understand just how serious these accusations of witchcraft are to a man like Reverend Parris. He would be seen as unfit to rule or lead because of his inability to keep his community from sin.
<p>"...the steady manner he displays does not spring from an untroubled soul. He is a sinner, a sinner not only against the moral fashion of the time, but against his own vision of decent conduct. Proctor...has come to regard himself as a kind of fraud." (Proctor, pg. 20-21)</p>	<p>INTERNAL CONFLICT: MAN vs. SELF</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> When I read this quote, I empathize with John Proctor because I've experienced moral dilemmas and haven't always made the right choice. This quote is an example of internal conflict. I know this because Miller states that Proctor has a "troubled soul" and that he has sinned against "his own vision of decent conduct." The author's purpose in this is to point out that this conflict could lead to feelings of betrayal, which could in turn lead to people questioning everything they've learned/been taught, which could then potentially lead to their society falling apart.
<p>"I look for John Proctor that took me from my sleep and put knowledge in my heart! I never knew what pretense Salem was..." (Abigail, pg. 24)</p>	<p>INDIRECT CHARACTERIZATION: ABIGAIL</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> When I read this quote, I feel bad for Abigail. How can you ask someone to <i>un</i>experience something?!?! I think what John Proctor is asking of her is unfair and unrealistic. This quote is an example of Miller's indirect characterization of Abigail. He is saying she is disillusioned, impassioned, and young/immature. I know this because of the punctuation Miller chooses to use here (lots of !), the stage directions (<i>in tears</i>), and the fact that he uses the analogy of previously "being asleep" and now having "knowledge in [her] heart." This quote impacts the story by presenting us with a character who is in conflict with Proctor (she wants him, he no longer

	wants her), thereby possibly introducing the main part of the conflict in the plot. The fact that she is so emotionally unstable is a bad sign, because she is desperately in love but also young and fragile, and it leaves it open for her to make some really bad choices as the plot develops.
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