

The Crucible
Audition
Deputy Governor Danforth

DANFORTH. These- will be sufficient. Sit you down, children. (*Silently they sit. 'Willard enters D. R., stands at D. R.*) Your friend Mary Warren has given us a deposition. In which she swears that she never saw familiar spirits, apparitions, nor any manifest of the Devil. She claims as well, that none of you have seen these things either. Now, children, this is a court of law. The law, based upon the Bible, and the Bible writ by Almighty God, forbid the practice of witchcraft, and describe death as the penalty thereof. But, likewise, children, the law and Bible damn all liars, and bearers of false witness. Now then. . . it does not escape me that this deposition may be devised to blind us; (*To Hathorne.*) it may well be that Mary Warren has been conquered by Satan who sends her here to distract our sacred purpose. If so, her neck will break for it. But if she speak true, I bid you now drop your guile and confess your pretense, for a quick confession will go easier with you. Abigail Williams, rise. (*Abigail rises slowly*) Is there any truth in this?

ABIGAIL. (*A contemptuous look at Mary.*) No, sir.

DANFORTH. Children, a very augur bit will now be turned into your souls until your honesty is proved. Will either of you change your positions now, or do you force me to hard questioning?

ABIGAIL. I have naught to change, sir. She *lies*.

DANFORTH. (*To Mary.*) You would still go on with this?

MARY. (*Faintly.*) Aye, sir.

DANFORTH. (*To Abigail*) A poppet were discovered in Mister Proctor's house, stabbed by a needle. Mary Warren claims that you sat beside her in the court when she made it, and that you saw her make it, and witnessed how she herself stuck her needle into it for safe-keeping. What say you to that:

ABIGAIL. (*A slight note of indignation.*) It is a lie, sir