

Reading Strategy: Question the Characters' Motives

Examining the behavior of characters in a story or play is always a good way to increase understanding of the plot. Specifically, to **question the characters' motives**—their reasons for acting and speaking as they do—helps alert readers to important details and ideas that are not necessarily directly stated.

In *The Crucible*, characters' motives are revealed through their actions, words, and extensive stage directions.

DIRECTIONS: Question the motives of Abigail, Mrs. Putnam, and Reverend Hale. Review each characters' words, actions, and the stage directions as you complete the table with your answers to the questions in the first column.

	Abigail	Mrs. Putnam	Reverend Hale
What motivates the characters' behavior?			
Do the characters hide true motives? If so, how?			
Might characters be unaware of true motives?			