

Name _____

The Crucible, Act Three

To understand why characters act as they do, we can ask what the characters want and what they hope to gain by what they say and do. The chart below lists actions of several characters in Act Three. For each action, explain what you think the character's motivation is. An example has been done for you.

Action	Explanation
1. John Proctor admits to having committed adultery with Abigail Williams.	He believes that by incriminating himself, he will incriminate Abigail, which will help expose her as a fraud.
2. Abigail Williams acts as if she is being tormented by a yellow bird.	
3. Mary Warren is called upon to denounce the other girls, but instead she denounces John Proctor.	
4. Even though he helped start the investigation, Reverend Hale now denounces it and leaves the court.	
5. Despite her husband's claim that she cannot tell a lie, Elizabeth Proctor lies to Deputy Governor Danforth.	

Look back at the examples of rising and falling status that you listed for Act Two. Explain one way that a character's motivation in Act Three might be connected to a change of status (either their or another character's).
