Abigail Williams in *The Crucible*

Abigail Williams in *The Crucible* plays an important role in the development of the play. She is stubborn and superior, a character that she uses to intimidate and unjustly accuse others. This character motivates her to make several decisions that eventually cause resentment not only to her but to other heroes, such as John Proctor and Elizabeth. As a result, there are various conflicts in the play that are related to the character of Abigail.

Notably, the play *The Crucible* involves false persecution of individuals who are accused of practicing witchcraft. A series of lies and accusations are mitigated in Salem, where most of them are perpetrated by Abigail (Alison 76). This begins as soon as she starts an affair with a married man using any means, including lies and unjust practices in order to get him back. This marks the major conflict in the play as Proctor, being a married man makes his wife be involved in the same condition, as Abigail even accuses her of being a witch. Abigail feels that she needs to revenge for the loss of her lover at the cost of breaking Proctor’s marriage. Abigail finds it hard to accept that their relationship is over as she says, “I look for John Proctor that took me from my sleep and put knowledge in my heart!...You loved me John Proctor, and whatever sin it is, you love me yet!” (Miller 24).

Abigail’s resentment is evident through her words and actions. This is apparent in the court sessions where Proctor reveals in public the fact of their brief affair. This deepens her need for revenge. At this moment, she is desperate as she resents Proctor and his wife as those who are
guilty in her accusations. It is true to state that Abigail is motivated by her stubbornness and superiority. This makes many people believe that her accusations are right. As a result, she hates those who try to belittle her influences.

The complexity of the character of Abigail is clear right from the beginning of the play when she tells her uncle, who is much older that she, about witchcraft. She argues, “Uncle, the rumor of witchcraft is all about; I think you'd best go down and deny it yourself” (Miller 9). She believes she is more knowledgeable about various social situations than any other person. She also thinks that she is in a superior position than the natives of Barbados (Boyer and Nissenbaum 3). She is prejudiced against other people as she says, “they want slaves, not such as I. Let them send to Barbados for any of them!” (Miller 12). Evidently, Abigail demonstrates her stubbornness in her conversation with Proctor, concerning his wife and says, “Oh, I marval how such a strong man [can be with] such a sickly wife” (Miller 23). This statement shows that she always thinks of herself and does not believe that other people are worthy her attention. She believes that Elizabeth, Proctor’s wife, does not deserve to be loved.

In conclusion, Abigail is not an exception as she engages in things that are common to man. Virtually, there are lots of cases where people are falsely accused and prosecuted for crime they have not committed. This normally happens when the accuser assumes a higher authority just as it was the case with Abigail. She uses her position to intimidate others, such as Elizabeth. Her actions stimulated by her decisions results in resentment to the point of revenge. As a result, it is clear that her actions do not only affect others but also herself. She makes the wrong decisions due to her inability to accept the truth. For example, she does not want to believe that her relationship with Proctor is over.
Although Abigail’s character is unforgettable, I do not admire her personality. This is because she makes others suffer and be prosecuted falsely. She is also prejudiced in her believing that she is the best. This results in the development of negative feeling throughout the play towards her actions and motivations. To some extent, I am confused about my reaction towards her actions because of her superiority and stubbornness.
Works Cited

  <http://www.123HelpMe.com/view.asp?id=3851>
