

# SPACECAT

Title of Text: The Crucible, Act 1: Scene 2 – Words of Worry and Warning

	Prompts	Explanation
<b>S</b> SPEAKER	Who is the speaker? What do we know about them? What can you tell or what do you know about the author that helps you understand the point of view expressed?	Abigail, a key character. She is manipulative and uses threats to maintain control over the situation. She directly addresses the other girls and uses intimidation to silence them after physically slapping Betty, such as when she says <i>"Now look you. All of you. We danced. And Tituba conjured Ruth Putnam's dead sisters. And that is all."</i>
<b>P</b> PURPOSE	What is the speaker hoping to accomplish? What is the reason behind this piece? What do they want the audience to do?	Abigail is trying to control the narrative and prevent the truth about her actions from coming to light. She says, <i>"And mark this—let either of you breathe a word, or the edge of a word about the other things, and I will come to you in the black of some terrible night and I will bring a pointy reckoning that will shudder you."</i>
<b>A</b> AUDIENCE	Who is the speaker trying to reach? How do we know? Do they indicate a specific audience? What assumptions exist in the text about the intended audience? Who is the larger or secondary audience?	Abigail is speaking to Mercy, Mary Warren, and Betty. She is trying to maintain control over them and prevent them from speaking out about their actions. For example, she warns Betty, <i>"You will never...say that again!"</i> after Betty accuses her of drinking blood.
<b>C</b> CONTEXT	What is the time and place of this piece? What is happening in the world as it relates to the subject of the piece or the speaker?	The time and place is Salem, Massachusetts in 1662. The world is consumed by fear of witchcraft, and people are being accused and executed based on rumors and hysteria.
<b>E</b> EXIGENCE	What was the spark or catalyst that moved the speaker to act or write? How did that event impact the speaker?	The catalyst for Abigail's actions is the threat of exposure and punishment for her involvement in witchcraft. She is trying to prevent the truth about her drinking blood and casting spells from being revealed. Her response of fear is evident when Betty says <i>"You drank a charm to kill Goody Proctor! You drank a charm to kill John Proctor's wife!"</i>
<b>C</b> CHOICES	What are the rhetorical choices that the speaker makes in the piece? Think about overall structure, devices, diction, syntax, etc.	Abigail uses violent threats to keep the others silent. For example, she says <i>"I will come to you in the black of some terrible night and I will bring a pointy reckoning that will shudder you."</i> She uses authoritative language such as <i>"Shut it!"</i> and <i>"Sit up and stop this!"</i> She uses imagery in her description of <i>"the black of some terrible night"</i> and <i>"pointy reckoning"</i> to instill fear.
<b>A</b> APPEALS	How did the creator intend to appeal to the audience (ethos, pathos, logos)? What elements are there within the artifact that were meant to appeal to the audience? Are there any unintended effects that potentially offend the audience?	Pathos: Abigail appeals to the audience's fear and emotions, especially when she threatens the other girls. For example, <i>"I will come to you in the black of some terrible night"</i> invokes fear. Ethos: She positions herself as an authority figure by using commands and asserting control, but her unethical actions undermine this appeal.

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		Logos: There is very little logical reasoning in her speech. Her focus is more on emotional manipulation and intimidation.
<b>T</b> TONE	What is the speakers' attitude toward the subject? Is the tone the same throughout? Where does it shift?	The tone is threatening and controlling at the start, as Abigail asserts dominance. For example, she says, " <i>I will come to you in the black of some terrible night and I will bring a pointy reckoning that will shudder you.</i> " The tone shifts when she becomes impatient and more frustrated with Betty's crying. She says, " <i>Now you... sit up and stop this!</i> " and shakes Betty roughly. This shift shows her increasing impatience and urgency.