Notes- The Crucible, Act I

Act I of The Crucible opens with Salem’s minister, the Reverend Parris, watching over his sick daughter Betty, wondering what is wrong with her.

-The town is gossiping of witchcraft.

-Rev. Parris had seen both Betty and his niece Abigail dancing in the forest with his slave, Tituba, the night before. That evening in the forest, he also saw a cauldron and a frog leaping into it.

-Abigail first denies that she or Betty have been involved in witchcraft, but she admits that they were dancing in the forest with Tituba.

-Abigail lives in the Parris household because her own parents are dead. She used to live at the home of John and Elizabeth Proctor, but they asked her to leave for some mysterious reason.

-Thomas and Ann Putnam: Talked to Tituba, trying to conjure spirits with their 7 dead children.

* The Putnams’ daughter, Ruth, is sick like Betty.

-Abigail threatens to hurt the other girls if they speak of what they did in the forest with Tituba.
-John Proctor confronts Abigail, who says that Betty is just pretending. We see that Abigail and John Proctor had an affair while she worked at their house.
-Abigail tries to flirt, but John tells her their relationship is over. Abigail won’t believe it.

-Reverend Hale, a famed witch expert from another town, arrives. Abigail begins suggesting that Tituba called on the Devil. Tituba denies it until Rev. Hale & Rev. Parris question her, when she finally confesses feeling pressured. She also points fingers at Sarah Good and Sarah Osborne. Abigail follows her lead, as do the other girls.

- Mary Warren (who works as a maid in the Proctor home), follows Abigail’s every lead.