

Pace and Rhythm Chart for 'The Crucible'

Act 1	Narrator's introduction – slow paced, factual and calm
	We enter in a crisis - Betty Unconscious, Parris praying 'Oh my God! God help me!'
	Parris sends Tituba away, interrogates Abby, worries about the 'faction', Putnam's enter - eager
	Narrator's interrupts – talks about Putnam – this always slows pace down!
	Abby tells girls to admit to dancing – rushed orders but calmer than adults
	Betty wakes – sudden increase in pace: 'darts off the bed', 'You drank blood Abby' – A. 'smashes her across the face'
	Proctor and Abby's conversation – reveals the truth
	Proctor's refusal to give her 'A soft word' angers here – the 'sweated like a stallion' section
	Betty sits up and starts to scream – everyone rushes upstairs
	Narrator introduces Rebecca Nurse – she says it's just a 'silly season'
	Proctor's confrontation with Parris – he vows to 'find [the party against Parris] and join it'
	Narrator introduces Hale 'The devil is precise' – air of the careful expert
	Parris tells Hale about the dancing, Abby blames Tituba, Tituba to be hanged confesses, Abby and girls join in
	Act 2
Proctor and Elizabeth argue over Abby – Mary talks about trials – Proctor threatens to whip her	
We learn that Elizabeth is 'somewhat mentioned' in trials – shock, slow down	
P. and E. argue again over Abby – E. says 'She has an arrow in you yet, John Proctor'	
Hale enters – P. and E. calmly talk – 10 Commandments – slow but tense	
Elizabeth doesn't believe in witches, Giles Corey & Francis Nurse enter – wives arrested	
Cheever comes for Elizabeth, discovers poppet, Mary says it's hers, Proctor rips warrant, forces Mary to tell truth	
Act 3	Corey bursts into court with evidence, taken into the vestry – Nurse says 'the girls are frauds'
	Proctor enters with Mary who admits 'it were pretence' – Proctor questioned
	Corey accuses Putnam of 'killing his neighbours for land' – but won't give names - arrested
	Proctor calmly presents Mary Warren's deposition – Danforth justifies the trial
	Danforth questions Mary, angry exchanges between Proctor and Parris, Mary cannot faint
	Danforth asks Abby if it's true, she feels 'a cold wind has come', Proctor reveals his affair 'It is a whore!'
	Elizabeth called in – lies – slow but tense
	Hale this testimony is 'private vengeance', Yellow Bird, Mary joins Abby, Proctor. 'God is dead!', Hale leaves
Act 4	Tituba & Sarah fly away with the devil – comic? Judges worry about hangings
	Hale is trying to convince Rebecca Nurse to confess, Abby has 'vanished'
	Hale ask Elizabeth to convince John to lie, Elizabeth and John talk
	Slight rise in pace as he says he might confess, he is not fit to die with the likes of Rebecca
	P. wants forgiveness, E. says he must forgive himself and 'it takes a cold wife to prompt lechery'
	P. confesses but is uncertain – 'moves as an animal' but thinks lying is right 'I am no saint', E. 'I am not your judge'
	Rebecca asked to confess – refuses, Danforth unwilling to 'trade [P.'s] life for a lie.', Proctor refuses to sign, then signs
	Proctor holds confession: 'you will not use me' to give credibility to trials: 'I have given you my soul: leave me my name'
	Proctor realises that because he couldn't lie he is a good enough man to hang, marched out, Hale prays, drum crash

Pace / Rhythm – note this is not the same thing as tension: slow pace can be high tension