

Figurative Language Analysis Answer Key

1. Proctor – “naked now”

- Device: Metaphor
- Meaning: Without lies/excuses, the truth is exposed.
- Theme: Reputation and integrity are stripped bare under pressure.

2. Abigail’s threat

- Device: Hyperbole/Metaphor (threatening imagery)
- Meaning: She frightens the girls into silence.
- Theme: Fear is used as a tool of control and hysteria.

3. The poppet

- Device: Symbolism
- Meaning: Innocent doll twisted into “evidence” of evil.
- Theme: Corruption of justice, hysteria over facts.

4. Danforth – “Devil is precise”

- Device: Irony
- Meaning: Claim of precision while trials are built on lies.
- Theme: Misuse of authority, false certainty in hysteria.