

Thesis: Elizabeth Proctor is the strongest character in “The Crucible” because she shows incredible loyalty to her friends and family, she loves her husband enough to give him his “goodness,” and she has the courage to stand up for herself even though it may have ultimately destroyed her life forever.

A final reason that shows Elizabeth is a strong character is because she illustrates courage by sticking up for herself. This is proven when E is questioned at her house. She is upset that others may even believe she is a witch, but she keeps her answer as honest as she always is: “If you believe I be secretly bound to Satan, then I must tell you, sir, I do not believe it” (1075). Even though E knows she could get in trouble for this comment, she is still courageous enough to say it to Rev. Hale. This comment ends up getting her condemned, but being honest was important to Elizabeth. Another example of E’s courageousness is seen when E is questioned for having a poppet in her house. E knows Abigail is behind the accusation, and her frustration is seen when she responds, “The girl is murder! She must be ripped out of the world!” (1078). It takes great courage to say something about the girl who has been accusing others in the community. Once again, E stays true to herself even though she may have to pay the consequences. Clearly, E is a strong character because of her courage.

One reason Elizabeth is a strong character is because she is loyal to her family and friends. After E is taken by Cheever, John tells her not to worry because he will get her out of jail. E responds, "I will fear nothing" (1079). This illustrates E's loyalty to her husband because she is trusting that he will get her out of jail safely. A weak person may cry and worry about being taken away, but E. shows strength by believing her husband. Another way that E shows loyalty is by sticking up for her friend, Rebecca Nurse. When Hale tells E that Rebecca has been accused, E states, "You will never believe, I hope, that Rebecca trafficked with the devil" (1072). E knows anybody could get in trouble for sticking up for an accused person. However, E still proceed to tell the Reverend the witch trials are ridiculous if Rebecca Nurse is the one accused. Clearly, E shows strength because many people would not stickj up for friends and put themselves in danger. The strength that E shows towards her friends is also seen in the way she treats her husband.