 Resource 5

The Paradoxes of John Proctor

“He’s a flawed character, a man in his prime who finds himself – manoeuvres himself, really – into an extremely difficult position where he is at odds with his community, with god and ultimately with himself. He is on trial with himself. He believes he’s made a grave mistake and doesn’t know how to find his way back. The only way he can do that, ultimately, is to go to his death. Arthur Miller is placing his own heart at the centre of Proctor – it’s akin to what he thought he would have to do in the McCarthy trials. He was watching his friends and colleagues cave in and name names or sacrifice themselves and become exiles, leaving America.”

[Richard Armitage on The Crucible- Chris Wiegand article](https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2014/dec/02/richard-armitage-the-crucible-old-vic-cinema-digital-theatre)

How is this paradox and division evident in John Proctor’s character? Give evidence from the text to support your ideas.