Heroes and villians: explore how miller present a character we feel both sympathy and dislike for.

Q Judge Danforth can been seen as a hero by some and a villain by others. Depending upon the reading the situation we find him in. In the scene in which Elizabeth Proctor is summoned to declare whether of no John, her husband, is seen guilty of lechery. We,, the reader can feel both sympathy for Danforth, but also pure dislike.

W Miller does this to create a complex and detailed character, of which we feel mixed emotions towards. The characters who are accused, as well as the reader can feel dislike towards him because of his actions, however, Miller also makes us feel sympathy because of the external pressures that are placed upon him.

E In the scene, Danforth states 'Danforth: I judge nothing. Pause. He keeps watching Proctor, who tries to meet his gaze. I tell you straight, Mister - I have seen marvels in this court. I have seen people choked before my eyes by spirits; I have seen them stuck by pins and slashed by daggers. I have until this moment not the slightest reason to suspect that the children may be deceiving me. Do you 'understand my meaning?'

R The readers response to this, could be that of dislike, as he is not willing to listen to Proctor's evidence of the farce the court proceedings are. Yet, Danforth explains: 'I have seen marvels in this court.' This could clearly state his belief in the court proceedings and how justice is right, and no other explanation could be given. Here, the reader could see Danforth as blinded by the truth: 'I have until this moment not the slightest reason to suspect that the children may be deceiving me.' He is concerned at this point only with the truth, and he believes in the girls without doubt, even though, we as readers cannot believe that he does.

T Miller uses the word choice of the 'marvels' and lists these to show what Danforth has been witnessing within the court. Otherwise, we would be unaware of what he has seen. He also uses these to show how Danforth has been convinced about the girls' testimonies and evidence they have presented to him. The fact that he states some of the girls have been 'chocked' explains the extent at which the girls have gone to prove the loyalty and what they are experiencing is true. 'Chocked' is a dangerous symptom of the spirits and would be hard to do without something trying to starve air from a person, therefore to starve life from them.

Y Therefore, at this moment in time, Danforth is not convinced by Proctor and that the girls are indeed in contempt of court. He is stuck and as we see further into the scene, he only cares of his own reputation rather than the souls and justice he resides over.