



1692, Salem, Massachusetts. Young Elizabeth Parris could get in trouble. Goodwife Rebecca, her teacher, is encouraging her to read books and write poetry. Her cousin Abigail wants to teach her how to dance. Dancing and reading are prohibited in their small religious community.

Elizabeth hears the fiery sermons of her father, the Reverend Parris, who preaches to his congregation every Sunday about the evils of allowing the young women to read or dance. Torn between practicing her forbidden hobbies and the thought of disrespecting her father, reticent Elizabeth gives in to peer pressure and follows her cousin's urgings . . . until the two are caught.

The rebellious Abigail conjures up a scheme to place the blame on someone else. She accuses the town's teacher of putting a "witch's hex" on the girls. "Only

a witch could engage the girls in such wrong doing," says the Reverend. Upset and confused, Elizabeth agrees not to reveal the truth.

As more and more townspeople are drawn into the drama the girls have created, Elizabeth struggles with a guilty conscience and must choose between telling the truth or quietly supporting her cousin's scheme. ArtsPower's **Salem Justice** is a bold and suspenseful drama about how a small New England town struggled against its own imagined demons.

LENGTH OF PERFORMANCE: 50 MINUTES

STUDY BUDDY AND PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS PROVIDED

