Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *The Crucible* Act II **Think Critically!**

The theme of **human cruelty vs. righteousness** is particularly important in this act. However, before examining this theme it is important to understand the words.

**Righteousness** is an important theological concept in Judaism and Christianity. The quality or state of being [righteous](http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/righteous), holy, pure, and doing what is morally correct.- Strobot (Netsky Remix

**Cruelty** an [indifference](http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/indifference) to [suffering](http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/suffering) or positive [pleasure](http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/pleasure) in inflicting suffering.

When examining Act 2, we find characters who are incredibly cruel to other characters and we find characters who are righteous or attempt to live their Puritan lives as righteously as they can. Fill in the following chart to help you think critically about the play.

**Character Cruel to... Motive**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

**Character How he/she lives righteously Problems with attempting to live this way**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

Now that you have finished the chart, it is time for you to reflect upon this chart and draw some conclusions from this.

What does your research indicate to you on the theme of **human cruelty vs. righteousness?**

Do you believe that one outweighs the other? Do you find that human cruelty outweighs human righteousness? What do your findings suggest about humans? What about humans in times of paranoia and fear?