John Hale is a character in the ‘Crucible’ by Arthur Miller. He is a reverend and he was called into Salem to help find the cause of the strange activities. These strange activities, witchcraft or not, had to be examined thoroughly and the other reverends and officials of the court thought that Hale, with his immense knowledge of witchcraft formed over years of studying, was the man to bring order to Salem and reassure the people.

Hale was called in as Salem was alive with talk of witchcraft as many of the village children had brought about suspicion when they accused other villagers of being witches. Hale, when he arrived, was calm and set in his ideas but by the end of the play, his mind was warped by different stories from all sides and an escalating death toll. He signed many death warrants, some very reluctantly because he had got to know the people in the village. Many people did not want to be hanged so they told lies saying that they were witches to save themselves, something Hale recommended they do in the end when many of them were marked to hang at sunrise in Act 4. John Proctor, however, did this without success when he confessed to witchcraft because he did not deem himself worthy of hanging. The court officials saw through this confession, however, and refused to accept it, thereby condemning another man to death.

At the end, Hale thought the whole thing had got out of control and he tried to save the people and make the judges see that it was all an act of pretending by the girls, somewhat unsuccessfully.