TRANSITIONS mini-lesson

* Transitions help to move ideas seamlessly from one to the next by establishing either similarities or contrasts.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Smooth Movement | Contrast |
|  |  |

* **PRACTICE 1**: Read the following essay excerpt from a *second body paragraph* and highlight **THREE** transition words/phrases. In the margin, label the transition as either “smooth” transition or “contrast.”

In the next place, another character that seeks vengeance based on her jealousy is Abigail Williams. Early in Act I it is revealed that she drank blood while in the woods with Tituba and other town girls. As Betty exclaims, “You drank a charm to kill John Proctor’s wife! You drank a charm to kill Goody Proctor!” (Miller 19). Clearly Abby is seeking retribution for the fact that John still belongs to Elizabeth. Consequently, Abby retaliates against Elizabeth for maintaining John’s love once the trials begin. Mary informs the Proctors that Elizabeth’s name has been “somewhat mentioned” in court (Miller 59). Immediately the reader knows that such a charge could only be brought up by Abigail, again because she wants to eliminate Elizabeth and have John for herself. Because Abby is fueled by a blind desire for John, she acts on her jealousy of the woman he has chosen and therefore seeks revenge.

* **PRACTICE 2**: Read the following *introduction*. Highlight at least TWO transition word/phrases already present, and **ADD THREE TRANSITIONS IN RED** where they are clearly needed.

**1** In her emotional song “Hero” Mariah Carey sings: “So when you feel like hope is gone/look inside you and be strong/And finally you’ll see the truth/That a hero lies in you.” **2** This idea of finding inner strength and so becoming a kind of champion can also be seen in Arthur Miller’s play *The Crucible*. **3** Just as Carey’s song advocates persevering and self-reflection, many characters in the play also struggle to rise above chaos and so achieve a sense of heroism or sense of worth. **4** Rebecca Nurse never falters in her decision to remain true to herself. **5** Giles Corey will not give in to pressure to answer an unfair charge. **6** John Proctor seeks to recognize his own value as he wrestles with a signed confession. **7** As each character strives for self-respect, he/she must be willing to give something up. As Miller clearly demonstrates, in order to find dignity, one must be willing to make a sacrifice.