In Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*, the line load (number of lines/dialogue) is heavily skewed toward the main protagonists and antagonists, with specific characters carrying the bulk of the dialogue in Act 3 and 4 during the trials.

Here is a breakdown of the line load by role:

Heaviest Line Load (Lead Roles)

- **John Proctor (Highest Line Load):** As the protagonist, Proctor has the most lines, particularly in Acts 2 and 3. Key lines (roughly 150-250) reveal his internal struggle, affair with Abigail, and final moral choice.
- **Abigail Williams (Very High):** As the antagonist, Abigail drives the action, especially in Act 1 and Act 3, with roughly 70-120 lines focusing on manipulation and accusations.
- **Deputy Governor Danforth (High):** As the presiding judge, Danforth carries a massive amount of dialogue in Act 3 and 4. His role is marked by stern, legalistic dialogue.

Medium Line Load (Supporting Roles)

- **Reverend John Hale:** Initially has a high volume of dialogue in Acts 1 and 2 (expertly examining) that drops off significantly as he becomes disillusioned.
- **Reverend Parris:** Focused on his reputation, his lines are frequent in Act 1, often demonstrating paranoia, and sporadically in later acts.
- **Mary Warren:** Becomes crucial in Act 3, carrying a large emotional load during her testimony, but has fewer lines in acts 1 and 4.
- **Elizabeth Proctor:** Appears less than Abigail but has crucial, high-stakes dialogue in Acts 2 and 4, and a pivotal lie in Act 3.

Low-to-Moderate Line Load (Character Roles)

- **Giles Corey:** Acts as comic relief and a tragic figure. He has consistent dialogue but is not on stage for all scenes.
- **Thomas & Ann Putnam:** High in Act 1, low elsewhere.
- **Rebecca Nurse:** Lines are few but highly significant, focusing on calm and moral uprightness.
- **Tituba:** High in Act 1, absent until a small scene in Act 4.

Minor/Functional Roles

- **Ezekiel Cheever & Marshal Herrick:** High amount of technical/plot-driving dialogue in Acts 2, 3, and 4 (serving warrants and guarding).
- **Betty Parris, Mercy Lewis, Susanna Walcott:** High in Act 1, low in later acts (mostly echoing Abigail).

Act-Specific Load Breakdown

- **Act 1:** Parris, Abigail, and The Putnams dominate.
- **Act 2:** John and Elizabeth Proctor dominate.
- **Act 3:** Danforth, Proctor, Mary Warren, and Abigail dominate.
- **Act 4:** Danforth, Hale, and John Proctor dominate.