

***The Crucible* Act 1 Discussion/Study Questions Name_____**

1. *Why was Abigail asked to leave the Proctor's home? What are Abigail's feelings for John Proctor? For Elizabeth Proctor?*
2. *Why do the Putnam's start talking about witchcraft? What do they and others mention as signs of witchcraft?*
3. *How is Proctor described as he first enters the stage? (Be sure to include his view of himself.)*
4. *Why does Mr. Putnam oppose Reverend Parris? Despite his opposition to Parris, why does he take his side when Parris mentions calling Reverend Hale?*
5. *What does Proctor have against Reverend Parris?*
6. *What does Proctor mean when he says, "Society will not be a bag to swing around your head, Mr. Putnam."?*
7. *Discuss the significance of Rebecca Nurse's line: "There is prodigious danger in the seeking of loose spirits. I fear it, I fear it. Let us rather blame ourselves..." (Consider characterization and theme.)*
8. *Discuss the importance of this dialogue between Parris and Proctor:*

Parris: There is either obedience or the church will burn like Hell is burning.

Proctor: Can you speak one minute without we land in hell again? I am sick of Hell.

Parris: It is not for you to say what is good for you to hear!

Proctor: I may speak my heart, I think!

Parris: What, are we Quakers...?

9. *How is Hale described when he comes to Salem? (Specifically deal with his attitude and view of self.)*
10. *Why is the story about Hale not indicting the woman in Beverly for being a witch important?*
11. *Why does Reverend Hale believe Abigail over Tituba?*
12. *How is Tituba led into confessing and naming people?*
13. *By the end of Act 1, the girls dancing in the woods (and dabbling in other things they should not have been doing) turned into a litany of people being charged with witchcraft. Who, in your opinion, is most responsible? You may pick up to two people, but you must explain, using both quotations and actions from the act. Whom do you blame for the hysteria that occurs, and why do you blame him/her/them?*

The Crucible Vocabulary List

Act 1 pg. # definition

paradox

prodigious

partisan

contiguous

iniquity

fathom

defamation

ascertain

scoff

inculcate

malign

malevolence

lascivious

dissemble

propriety

Act 2

indignant

deference

pious

calamity

avid

lechery

providence

Act 3 pg. # definition

contentious

deferentially

effrontery

immaculate

qualm

ipso facto

gait

probity

placid

sublime

perjury

incredulous

base (as in, "It is a base question.")

Act 4

faction

adamant

calamity

sibilance

quail (v)

theocracy