

Some Crucible Questions

Acts I and II:

1. As the play opens Rev. Parris is questioning his niece. What is he questioning her about and what exactly is his real concern?
2. Explain in detail the relationship of John Proctor, Elizabeth Proctor, and Abigail Williams.
3. What is the function of Rebecca Nurse in the play?
4. Exactly why is Rev. Hale in Salem?
5. a) Why does Abigail Williams accuse people at the end of Act I?

b) Why does Betty Parris accuse people?
6. List the conflicts that are introduced in Act I. Which do you think is the major conflict? Give reasons for your answers.

7. List the major characters introduced in Act I. Identify each and write a one sentence description of his or her personality.

8. Why doesn't John Proctor tell the court immediately what he knows concerning what has been happening?

9. Give three reasons for Elizabeth's suspicions concerning her husband.

10. What does Mary Warren mean when she exclaims, "I saved her life today"?

11. When Elizabeth is taken away in chains, John Proctor tries to convince Mary Warren to testify against Abigail. a) What does Mary Warren warn him will happen if he testifies against Abigail?

b) What does he eventually decide to do and why?

Acts III and IV:

12. What two pieces of evidence regarding his Christian nature are presented against Proctor?

13. Discuss the phrase "Do that which is good, and no harm shall come to thee."

14. a) What accusation does Giles Corey make about Thomas Putnam.

b) What proof does he have?

c) What is he then asked to do because of that accusation?

d) Why does he refuse, and what happens to him because of that refusal?

15. Explain how Danforth decides to test John's accusation of Abigail and discuss the irony of what happens.

16. What does John Proctor mean when he says, "God is dead"?

17. a) Discuss why Rev. Hale returns to Salem.

b) What he has been doing in Andover, and what he is now advising the condemned to do and his reasons for doing so.

18. a) Why does John Proctor finally decide to confess?

b) How does he rationalize his decision?

c) What is Elizabeth's reaction to that decision?

19. What is meant by "There is blood on my head"?

20. Discuss "I am John Proctor! You will not use me!"

*Source: The Crucible Project website at
<http://www.curriculumunits.com/crucible/main3.htm>*