Name: Date:

# *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller Study Guide



Answer each question using direct evidence and page numbers from the text whenever possible.

## <u>Act 1</u>

1. Describe Reverend Parris, including his behavior and personality.

- 2. What is the "time-honored" tradition in Salem is mentioned on page 5?
- 3. What do the people of Salem think of the natives? Why? (5).

- 4. What do the people of Salem think of other religious groups? (8).
- 5. Explain how the witch hunt years were a time of "general revenge" (8).

6. Identify Tituba, Abigail, and Betty.

7. About what do Parris and Abigail argue? How are these issues a major concern for each of them?

8. Who else is "ill" besides Betty and how is she afflicted?

9. Describe Thomas Putnam, including his behavior and personality.

10. Why does Mrs. Putnam believe there are witches in Salem?

11. Identify Mercy Lewis and Mary Warren.

12. What is Mary's argument to Abigail?

- 13. What does Betty claim was Abigail's motivation for drinking the blood?
- 14. What does Abigail mention about her history (childhood)? For what purpose does Abigail mention this incident?
- 15. Describe John Proctor, including what he thinks of himself.

16. What is going on between John Proctor and Abigail?

17. What is the conflict between the Putnam and the Nurse families?

18. What does Rebecca suggest is the reason for Betty's delirium? What does this indicate about Rebecca's character?

19. What is Proctor's reason for not regularly attending church?

20. What are Reverend Parris' complaints, and what do they reveal about him?

21. What is the conflict between the Putnams and John Proctor? What is the conflict between the Putnams and Giles Corey?

22. Who is Reverend John Hale, and why has he come to Salem?

23. Why is Giles concerned about his wife?

24. What is Abigail accusing Tituba of doing?

25. How do Hale and Parris differ in their approaches with Tituba? Explain how each of these approaches contributes to her confession.

26. Why does Mrs. Putnam believe Tituba when she accuses Goody Osburn?

27. What do the girls do at the end of Act 1?

### <u>Act 2</u>

- 28. Provide a reason why the number of days that pass between Acts 1 and 2 might be significant.
- 29. What does Elizabeth want John to do? Why is he apprehensive?

30. Explain the substance of the conflict/tension between John and Elizabeth.

- 31. What is Mary Warren's attitude when she first enters the scene?
- 32. How does Mary's attitude change through the conversation with Proctor?
- 33. What gift does Mary Warren give to Elizabeth?

34. What is decided about the fate of Sarah Good? What is the proof?

- 35. For what reason is Sarah Good not sentenced to hang while Goody Osburn is?
- 36. What is John Proctor's description of "the work" that the girls do? (Quote it from page 58.)
- 37. Why does Elizabeth assume that Abigail wants her dead?

38. Identify the many things about which Hale question the Proctors. How do they respond to each inquiry?

- 39. Why do Giles Corey and Francis Nurse come to Proctor's house that evening?
- 40. What is the real reason Martha Corey is charged?

41. How does Abigail incriminate Elizabeth?

42. What conflicts plague John Proctor at the end of Act 2?

#### <u>Act 3</u>

- 43. What is the motivation for Giles Corey's behavior?
- 44. How do Cheever and Parris insult Proctor's character?
- 45. What does John learn about Elizabeth's condition? What is Danforth's decision because of this news?
- 46. What paper do Giles Corey, Francis Nurse, and John Proctor have to help convince the court to set their wives free? How does this backfire?
- 47. What evidence does Giles Corey have about the Putnams' motivations in the accusations against George Jacobs?

- 48. Why is Giles Corey arrested?
- 49. What are Hale's concerns as Proctor and his friends present evidence to Danforth?

50. What are the attitudes of Danforth, Hathorne, and Parris to the evidence presented?

51. What is Mary Warren's testimony? Based on her words and actions here, what is a reasonable explanation about why Mary was able to faint in the courtroom but cannot now?

52. Why does Abigail tell Danforth he should worry when he questions her?

53. How does Abigail discredit Mary's testimony? Describe the scene.

54. What crime does Proctor admit? Why does he admit this at this point?

55. How does Elizabeth's testimony backfire?

56. Of what does Mary accuse Proctor? Based on what is happening here, why does she do this?

57. What happens to John Hale at the end of the scene? Why does he do this?

### <u>Act 4</u>

58. What is the purpose of Tituba and Sarah Good's conversation?

59. Why is Hale spending time with the prisoners?

60. What has happened to Abigail and Mercy?

61. What has happened in Andover?

62. What does Parris suggest to Danforth, and what are Parris' motivations for this?

63. What reason does Hale give for returning to Salem?

64. What is Giles' fate, and what does it reveal about his character?

65. For what reason does John decide to confess? What realization allows him to change his mind? (Quote it on page 136.)

66. What does Proctor ultimately decide? Discuss the many reasons why he makes this decision.