



As you read *The Crucible*, answer the following questions in preparation for class discussion. Questions are grouped according to Act and are listed in the order in which the answers may be found. In some cases, you may need more space than is given on this sheet. You may wish to continue your answers on the back.

## Act I

1. Why has Reverend Parris sent for a doctor as the play begins?
2. What does Parris question his niece Abigail about?
3. What did Parris see in the woods the previous night?
4. Why does Abigail say she was dismissed by the Proctors?
5. What does Betty Parris reveal about what happened in the woods?
6. What threat does Abigail make to the other girls?
7. What happened in the past between John Proctor and Abigail? How do each of them feel about it now?
8. How does John Proctor feel about Reverend Parris?
9. What is the dispute between John Proctor and Thomas Putnam?

10. What does Giles Corey reveal to Reverend Hale?
11. When Abigail is questioned by Reverend Hale, who does she blame? What proof does she offer?
12. What ultimatum is Tituba given?
13. Who does Tituba accuse of being a witch?
14. Why does Abigail start accusing people at this point?
15. Why does Betty Parris start accusing people?

### **The Crucible--Act II**

1. Why has Mary Warren disobeyed her employers and gone to Salem?
2. What did Abigail Williams reveal to John Proctor? Elizabeth reminds him of this.
3. What lie did John Proctor tell to Elizabeth which makes her more suspicious of him?
4. What news does Mary Warren reveal to John and Elizabeth about the trials?
5. What does Mary Warren mean when she says, "I saved her life today!"?

6. What does Elizabeth realize when she finds out that she has been accused?
7. What does Elizabeth ask John to do?
8. Why does Reverend Hale visit the Proctors?
9. What does Reverend Hale ask Proctor to do?
10. Discuss the meaning of "Adultery, John."
11. What information does John Proctor reveal to Reverend Hale?
12. What news does Giles Corey reveal to the Proctors and Reverend Hale?
13. What has Rebecca Nurse been accused of?
14. Why do Ezekial Cheever and Marshal Herrick arrive at the Proctor home?
15. Explain why Cheever is both astonished and afraid when he finds the poppet with the needle in it?
16. What does John ask Mary Warren to do?
17. Why is Mary so afraid to do as he asks?
18. Why does Mary Warren warn John about testifying against Abigail?

19. What does John decide to do?

### **The Crucible – Act III**

1. As this act opens, what accusation does Giles Corey make?
2. What news do we learn about Rebecca Nurse?
3. What two pieces of evidence are brought out against Proctor in regard to his Christian nature?
4. What news does Danforth tell John Proctor about Elizabeth? What deal does he try to make with him?
5. What is going to happen to the 91 people who signed the testament stating a good opinion of Elizabeth, Martha Corey, and Rebecca Nurse?
6. What happens to Giles Corey?
7. What is Reverend Hale's advice to John Proctor as he is about to read his disposition before the court?
8. When Mary Warren says that she pretended to faint in court, what is she asked to do? What is the result?
9. What does Abigail do when suspicion that she might be pretending falls on her?

10. What does John Proctor do to discredit her?
11. Who is called to back up John's testimony? What happens?
12. What happens when Reverend Hale states that Abigail has always seemed false to him?
13. What is Mary Warren's reaction to Abigail's performance?
14. What does Hale do when Proctor is arrested?

#### **The Crucible--Act IV**

1. What is Reverend Hale advising the condemned to do?
2. What does Reverend Parris reveal about his niece Abigail?
3. What is the condition of Salem at this point?
4. How does Andover differ from Salem?
5. What does Reverend Parris want Danforth to do?
6. What does Reverend Hale mean when he says, "there is blood on my head!"?
7. Why does Danforth refuse to postpone the hangings?

8. What do Hale and Danforth request of Elizabeth Proctor?
9. What happened to Giles Corey?
10. What is John's excuse for confessing?
11. What is Elizabeth's proof that John is a good man?
12. How has Elizabeth changed since we first met her?
13. After John confesses, what does Danforth want him to do?
14. Explain the following: "I am John Proctor! You will not use me!"