

The Crucible Critical Thinking Questions

Part I: Text Dependent Questions (worth 4 points each: 2 for your answer and 2 for the quote)

Directions: On a separate piece of paper, you must choose 5 questions to answer. You **MUST** find a quote from the play to prove each answer. Answers should be no less than 6 sentences. Cite all quotes using proper MLA format for in-text citations and be sure to **ANSWER IN COMPLETE SENTENCES ON ANOTHER SHEET OF NOTEBOOK PAPER!!!!!!!!!!!!**

1. Does the Rev. Hale still believe as firmly in the truth of the accusations, or is he beginning to have some doubts? Use quotes from the text to support your answer.
2. What causes Proctor to change his mind and not confess? Use quotes from the text to support your answer.
3. Does this play promote the idea that it's okay to lie and cheat as long as you can get away with it? Use quotes from the text to support your answer.
4. Is there a hero in this play? If so, who? Think about heroic actions taken by minor characters as well as major characters. If you think the play lacks a hero, explain why you think none of the characters' actions are heroic. Use quotes from the text to support your answers.
5. Is John Proctor right or wrong to refuse to sign the paper? Explain your answer. Use quotes from the text to support your answers.
6. In any unfaithful marriage or relationship, who is to blame – the adulterous party (John), the counterpart or tempter (Abigail), or the distant spouse (Elizabeth)? Can someone be justified or pushed to cheat on their partner? Use quotes from the text to support your answer.
7. Do you believe that people who commit serious crimes (murder, assault) can change? Do you think they should be forgiven by society? Use quotes from the text to support your answer.
8. Why does Proctor initially agree to confess that he has trafficked with the devil? Use quotes from the text to support your answer.
9. Identify one message that Arthur Miller is trying to communicate through writing *The Crucible*. Explain fully what he is attempting to communicate about the human condition, and/or about how humans should or do behave in relationships with one another. Be sure to cite evidence from the text to support your answer.
10. Write persuasively – argue for or against the following statement: "It is nobler to die with integrity than to live with compromised principles that harm others." Use quotes from the text to support your answers.