

The Crucible

By Arthur Miller



Before**After**

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|---|----------|
| 1.____ Confessing to a crime you didn't commit in order to avoid punishment is wise. | 1.____ |
| 2.____ The difference between right and wrong is clear. | 2.____ |
| 3.____ It is better to die for what you believe in rather than to lie to save your life. | 3. ____ |
| 4.____ There is only one correct way to interpret the Bible. | 4. ____ |
| 5.____ That which doesn't destroy us only makes us stronger. | 5. ____ |
| 6.____ It's more difficult to forgive yourself if the person you have hurt doesn't forgive you. | 6. ____ |
| 7.____ Courage means doing something even though it can be difficult and fearsome. | 7. ____ |
| 8.____ A person is innocent until proven guilty | 8. ____ |
| 9.____ Beliefs in opposition to common values should be illegal. | 9. ____ |
| 10.____ Justice is best determined in a court of law | 10. ____ |

Study Guide Questions for *The Crucible*

Directions: These who, what, when, where and why questions are designed to help you understand the BASIC plot and characters. All the answers to the questions can be found by re-reading the text. There is not enough space to answer the questions in the packet. Please answer the questions in your notebook. There are page numbers accompanying each question for the most part), use these pages for the context of the question.

Act One

1. Describe Reverend Parris? 9
2. Why would the people of Salem not be allowed to read a novel? 10
3. What do the people of Salem think of the natives? Why? 11
4. Who is Tituba? 14
5. What did Parris discover Betty and Abigail doing in the forest? 16
6. Why is Parris concerned about what they did in the forest? 16 and 17
7. Who else is "ill" besides Betty?
8. Describe Thomas Putnam. 20-21
9. Why does Mrs. Putnam send for Tituba? 22
10. What does Betty claim Abigail did when she drank the blood? 25
11. What do you learn about Abigail's history (childhood) when she is threatening the other girls?
12. What does John Proctor think of himself? 27
13. What is the relationship between John Proctor and Abigail Williams? 28
14. Why does Rebecca Nurse have enemies if she is such a nice person? 31-32
15. What does Rebecca suggest is the reason for Betty's delirium? What does this indicate about Rebecca's character? 33
16. What complaint does Proctor make regarding the way Reverend Parris delivers his sermons? 34
17. What evidence is there that Reverend Parris is greedier than the average Reverend? 35
18. Describe Reverend Hale. P42
19. Why is Giles concerned about his wife? 46
20. What jumped into the soup during the dancing? 48
21. What is Abigail accusing Tituba of doing? 48-49
22. How do Hale and Parris differ in their approaches with Tituba? 50-54
23. Why does Mrs. Putnam believe Tituba when she accuses Goody Osburn? 53

Act Two

1. How many days have passed from the end of Act I to the beginning of Act II? 55
2. What has Salem developed to handle the witch situation? 58
3. What does Elizabeth want John to do? Why is John apprehensive? 58
4. Why are Elizabeth and John arguing? 59/60
5. What gift does Mary Warren give to Elizabeth? 61
6. How does Sara Good get away with not being sentenced to death by hanging while Goody Osburn is? 62
7. What is John Proctor's argument against what the court is doing?
8. Why does Elizabeth assume that Abigail wants her dead? 66
9. About what does Hale question the Proctors? 70
10. What does Proctor claim is the reason he does not go to church often?
11. Elizabeth denies that she believes in Witchcraft even though the gospels claim it exists. What does this say about Elizabeth? 75
12. What is the real reason Martha is charged? 76/77
13. How does Abigail incriminate Elizabeth? 78
14. What conflicts plague John Proctor at the end of Act I?

Act III.

1. Why is Giles Cory so upset? 87-89
2. How do Cheever and Parris degrade Proctor? 93-94
3. What does John learn about Elizabeth's condition? 95
4. How did Proctor's plan (having 91 people sign the affidavit) backfire? 97-98
5. What is Giles trying to prove about Thomas Putnam's motivation? 99-100
6. Why is Giles arrested? 100
7. Explain how Hale tries to defend Giles Cory. 100-101
8. Why do you think Mary Warren was able to faint in the courtroom, but not when she is being interrogated?
9. What stunt does Abigail pull to defer the blame away from herself? 108-109
10. How does Elizabeth's testimony backfire? 116
11. Of what does Mary accuse Proctor? Why do you think she does this? 121

Act IV

1. Why is Hale spending time with the prisoners?
2. Why does Abigail run away?
3. What does Parris suggest to Danforth? 129

4. What reason does Danforth give for having to hang the remainder of the prisoners? 131
5. What does Danforth reveal about himself on page 131? How so?
6. According to Hale, what has happened to Salem? Why will this lead to rebellion? 132
7. What reason does Hale give for returning to Salem? 132
8. What argument does Hale give Elizabeth so she could help John justify signing the confession? Directly quote some of his words. 133
9. Who still has not confessed?
10. What does Giles's death reveal about his character? 136
11. Why does Proctor think that he has been "rotten" for some time? 137
12. Why does Elizabeth blame herself for John's adultery?
13. Why will Proctor not name names?
14. Why does John Proctor want to keep his signed confession rather than it become public?

Let's Write!

Journal Topics: Directions

At the beginning of each act, please complete a journal entry (either written or typed – **20 SENTENCE MINIMUM**). Then for homework at the end of each act you must write another journal entry (either written or typed – **20 SENTENCE MINIMUM**). However, for the second journal entry, discuss the same question except this time you must discuss it as if you are a character in *The Crucible*, explaining that character's experience. Discuss the examples provided in *The Crucible* and include emotions, thoughts, and motivations that you believe fit the character.

ACT ONE - JOURNAL

Write about a time when . . .

1. You thought you might be in trouble and you lied to avoid it.
2. You were among a group of people who had trouble getting along . . . what were the underlying problems or motivations among them?
3. Rumors were flying . . . did someone try to dispel them?
4. Your emotions prevented you from making a good choice.
5. You found yourself "in over your head" because of a bad choice you made.
6. You made a bad choice that you wish you could go back and change
7. You made a good choice that played a role in who you are today.

ACT TWO- JOURNAL

Write about a time when . . .

1. You or someone you know was judged unfairly.
2. You asked to be forgiven for a wrong you'd done but weren't.
3. Jealousy (your own or someone else's) caused a problem for you.
4. Honesty (your own or someone else's) played a role in a conflict in your life.
5. Your emotions in a particular situation clouded your judgment.

ACT THREE - JOURNAL

Write about a time when . . .

1. You (or someone you observed) was on a "power trip."
2. You were frustrated by the blatant lies someone was telling that everyone believed.
3. You sacrificed a principle that is important to you for a person that is important to you.
4. You (or someone you know) were asked to "name names" or implicate others in a problematic situation.

ACT FOUR - JOURNAL

Write about a time when . . .

1. You pretended to be something or someone you are not.
2. You became totally disillusioned with someone or something that you believed in.

3. You were afraid to admit you were wrong.
4. You gave up something or someone important to you for a principle