

The Crucible

By Arthur Miller



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? Directly quote. 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 with which 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 be