

The Crucible Review

You may write on this paper. You may use it as notes. You may bring it to the test and use it to help you.
On the test, be prepared to answer questions like these.

FROM ACT I

1. What happens in the exposition of the play?
2. When Reverend Parris sees his daughter and other girls dancing in the forest, what does he think they're doing?
3. Why does Reverend Parris fear the rumor that his daughter has come under a spell?
4. When Abigail says that her "name is good in the village," she isn't telling the truth. Which literary term is the best name for this?
5. The dialogue between Parris, Proctor, Putnam, and Core—in which they disagree about matters of money and real estate—emphasizes what aspect of life in Salem in 1692?
6. Name the protagonists of this play.
7. Name the antagonist of the play.
8. What conclusion can you draw about Abigail's discharge from the Proctor home?
9. What evidence backs up that conclusion (from #8)?
10. Why does Parris send for Reverend Hale?
11. When the others leave the room, Abigail takes charge of the girls and reveals the true nature of their evening in the woods. Which literary term best describes this statement?
12. Abigail makes it clear that she hopes John Proctor still loves her. What element (a literary term) does this introduce?

FROM ACT II

13. Why does Mary Warren say she goes to Salem every day?
14. In the opening scene of the play, we see Reverend Parris praying for his daughter, and in Act II, John Proctor tells us about his preaching for "golden candlesticks." What does this help us to understand about Reverend Parris?
15. Mary Warren says her "insides are all shuddery" when she comes from the court. What is the real reason why the court proceedings upset her so much?
16. In the same moment when she tells Elizabeth how she saved her in court that day, Mary Warren warns Goody Proctor not to "be so sarcastical no more." She stamps her foot and says, "I'll not be ordered to be no more" (942). Mary Warren's behavior has changed from subservient to assertive. What has caused this change?
17. What literary term accounts for Mary Warren's changed behavior?
18. What happens when Reverend Hale arrives at the Proctors' home,
19. Why does Elizabeth Proctor want her husband to face the court in Salem?
20. John Proctor has previously hesitated to tell anyone what Abigail told him about witchcraft, probably because he doesn't want to confess to his adultery. What could this hesitation suggest about him?
21. If the girls are hysterical when the accused faces them, the person is pronounced guilty. Because this type of evidence would never be accepted in a modern court, how does a modern audience respond to seeing this type of evidence accepted?
22. Consider these two statements: 1)When given the chance, some people will lie about others to protect themselves. 2)Some people show strength in the same moments when others are cowardly. Are these characterizations or theme statements?

FROM ACT III

23. What does Deputy Governor Danforth represent or symbolize in the court?
24. Why does Proctor reject the compromise that would grant his wife freedom for one year?
25. What happens when someone offers evidence that questions the court's authority?
26. To what does Mary Warren confess in court?
27. When she is questioned about her truthfulness, why does Abigail say she feels a "cold wind" and ask God to "take away this shadow" (972), disrupting the court and accusing Mary Warren?

28. Danforth says that even though he has been a lawyer for thirty-two years, he “should be confounded were I called upon to defend these people” (967). In what way does this statement reveal a dangerous bias?
29. According to Giles Corey, why does Putnam want his neighbor accused of witchcraft?
30. At the courthouse, they ask Elizabeth whether her husband had an affair. Why does she lie?
31. When Danforth argues that witchcraft is an invisible crime, what impact does this have on Proctor’s case?
32. Why might Mary Warren’s accusation against Proctor be interpreted as the climax of the play?

FROM ACT IV

33. What conclusion about current life in Salem can you draw from the fact that orphans beg for food and cows roam the streets?
34. Through her test of character, what Elizabeth has learned?
35. Why does John Proctor retract his confession?
36. Why won’t Elizabeth plead with her husband in the final part of the final scene?
37. John Proctor confesses, but he still hangs. Why doesn’t his confession save him as it saved the others?

FROM THE WHOLE PLAY

38. What is the point of view of this play? (It is the same as almost every other play.)
39. What literary term that best describes the following statement: Gallows hill represents death.
40. The _____ of this play is very strange because the characters talk in a very different way than what we’re used to hearing.
41. Though he committed adultery, John Proctor is a loving husband because he means to please his wife and hopes to make up for “the single error of [his] life.” This statement is best described with which literary term?

VOCAB WORDS in context: Study the definitions and uses of the following vocab words from the play:

ameliorate	anarchy	base	conviction	daft	deference	discomfit
dissemble	exaltation	faction	guile	immaculate	indignant	ineptly
misgiving	pallor	pretense	reprimand	subservient	unperturbed	

3 SENTENCES: Each answer must have a claim, one piece of evidence, and one sentence of commentary. CHOOSE ONLY 3 OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS. (5 points each)

Why is it ironic that, in Act IV, Danforth says “I will not deal in lies.”

Danforth says that in ordinary crime, the judge can call witnesses. However, he calls witchcraft “an invisible crime” (967) so there cannot be witnesses. He claims that if the witch will not confess, we must “rely upon [the witch’s] victims” (967) to testify. What is the problem with this thinking?

According to Merriam-Webster, the word *crucible* means “a severe test” or “a place or situation in which concentrated forces interact to cause or influence change or development.” Why is this play called *The Crucible*?

Which character exhibits the greatest strength?

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