

## The Crucible, Act 1

1. What is Rev. Parris' immediate concern at the beginning of the play?
2. Explain how the following quote gives the reader insight into Parris' true concern: (To Abigail) "I pray you feel the weight of truth upon you, for now my ministry's at stake, my ministry and perhaps your cousin's life".
3. Explain the terrible events that happened in the Putnam's past that caused them to send Ruth to visit Tituba? Why did Ms. Putnam think Tituba could help?
4. When no medical explanation can be provided, what do the townspeople (including Parris and the Putnams) think the explanation must be?
5. What reason does Abigail give for being fired from the Proctor's?
6. When the girls are alone with Betty, Mary Warren tries to convince Abigail to tell the truth about the girls' earlier activities in the forest, even though they will get in trouble. Abigail responds with "Oh, *we'll* be whipped!" Explain why the word "*we'll*" is set apart by italics and what it reveals about Abigail's character.
7. When Betty finally regains consciousness, of what does she accuse Abigail?
8. Find evidence in the play to prove that Abigail threatens the other girls.
9. How does Abigail's mood change drastically upon the arrival of John Proctor?
10. Find evidence to prove how Proctor reacts to Abigail's advance.
11. Find evidence that Rebecca Nurse does not believe the girls are afflicted by witchcraft.
12. Find evidence that proves how John Proctor feels about Rev. Parris as a minister.
13. Why do you think the author included seemingly trivial arguments about firewood and home ownership?
14. What "strange" action does Martha Corey participate in that makes her husband, Giles Corey, suspicious?
15. What literary device is used to drop hints about things that may happen later in a work?
16. Why did Abigail blame Tituba (and not someone else) of witchcraft?

17. What do you think Rev. Hale means when he tells Tituba that “[she is] God’s instrument put in our hands to discover the Devil’s agents among us”?
18. What does the power of suggestion have to do with the names of Goody Good and Goody Osburn?
19. Why does Mrs. Putnam think Goody Osburn could be a witch?
20. Why does Tituba “confess”?
21. What do you think Abigail’s motivation was for “confessing” at the end of Act 1?

