

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Block \_\_\_\_\_

*The Crucible* Study Guide (for average English classes): Answer each question as you watch the movie or read the play. Many of the questions will have different answers depending on whether we **read** the play or **watch** the movie. For questions with two different answers, be sure to put **both** answers and distinguish which answer comes from the play and which from the movie.

Act I: Identify

1. Where does the opening act of the play take place?
2. What **three** evil things were the girls seen doing in the woods?
3. What is bothering Reverend Parris? In other words, the scene in the woods can cause him what other problem?
4. What is wrong with Betty Parris and Ruth Putnam?
5. Why does Parris send for Reverend Hale from Beverly?
6. What is rumored about Abigail Williams and John Proctor?
7. What motivates Thomas Putnam, as far as what he wants to own?
8. What does Ann Putnam claim about her dead babies?
9. What does Abigail tell John Proctor in private?

10. What are the reasons for petty disagreements among the following:
  - a. John Proctor
  - b. Thomas Putnam
  - c. Giles Corey
  - d. Samuel Parris
11. Why does Tituba confess **and** what does she confess?
12. To what do the girls hysterically confess and **why**?

Act I: Interpret

1. What does the word **crucible** mean?
2. What was the Puritan outlook toward the virgin forest?
3. How is **theocracy** shown in this act?
4. What is foreshadowed about Abigail Williams' and Ann Putnam's motivation?
5. What are Reverend Parris' weaknesses?
6. What is considered to be the key to what makes a person important in those days?
7. Why are the first people named as witches poor and homeless?

Act II: Identify

1. What duty has Mary Warren been performing in Salem?
2. What does Elizabeth Proctor want John to tell the courts in Salem?
3. What gift does Mary Warren present to Elizabeth?

4. What does Mary Warren tell Elizabeth concerning her (Elizabeth) in court?
5. What does Reverend Hale ask Proctor to name **and** what does he forget?
6. What “mistakes” has Proctor made concerning his children and church?
7. Of what are Martha Corey and Rebecca Nurse accused?
8. What argument does Hale make as far as how the devil can work through good people?
9. Why is Elizabeth Proctor arrested?
10. What must Proctor do at the act’s end that could ruin him **and** why must he do it?

#### Act II: Interpret

What is ironic about the following events:

1. When John tells Elizabeth at the beginning of the act, “Pray for a fair summer”?
2. Mary giving Elizabeth a poppet?
3. Proctor trusting the constable Ezekiel Cheever at the act’s beginning?

Moving away from irony:

4. Why does John Proctor call Reverend Hale “Pontius Pilate” after Elizabeth is arrested?
5. How did the needle “appear” in Abigail’s belly?
6. How **and** why is John Hale changing, becoming a **dramatic character**?

Act III: Identify

1. Mary Warren has been brought to the court by John Proctor for what purpose?
2. Ninety-one names on a petition citing the good qualities of those accused are brought to the court by Goodman Nurse. What is to be done with those names by the court?
3. What accusation does Giles Corey make?
4. Why is Giles Corey arrested?
5. What **two** facts about Proctor are told to the court by Ezekiel Cheever?
6. What news is brought **and** deal offered Proctor regarding his wife?
7. What is John Hale's opinion about the court now?
8. How does Abigail threaten the court?
9. What is Mary Warren unable to do for the court?
10. What confession does John Proctor make to the court?
11. What is the ironic result when Elizabeth is brought in to confirm her husband's confession?
12. What do the girls do to drive Mary to the brink of hysteria?
13. Why is John Proctor arrested?
14. What does Reverend Hale do after this?

### Act III: Interpret

1. According to Judge Danforth, why are only the “victims” of witchery listened to?
2. Hale says, “There is a prodigious fear of this court in the country.” Why is there a fear?
3. Why does Elizabeth Proctor -- who has “never told a lie” -- lie to the court?
4. How have the following people displayed courage:
  - a. Mary Warren
  - b. Giles Corey
  - c. John Proctor
  - d. Reverend Hale

### Act IV: Identify

1. How much time has passed **and** what has happened to many of the accused?
2. What news does Parris have about Abigail and Mercy Lewis?
3. What threat has been made on Parris’ life?
4. What has happened concerning similar courts in Andover?
5. What has happened to the farms and cattle of those in jail?
6. What were Giles Corey’s last words?
7. Why did Corey neither confess nor deny witchery?
8. For what does Elizabeth ask John to forgive her?

9. John signs, then rips up, his confession. Why?

Act IV: Interpret

1. Even though they need only “confess” in order to live, why do people choose death?
2. Danforth is upset at Parris for Abigail running off -- as well as being concerned about the events in Andover. Why?
3. Why does Hale try so hard to convince Proctor to confess?
4. How is the state of the countryside symbolic of the state of the minds of the people in Salem?
5. Why, when asked by Hale, does Elizabeth refuse to beg for her husband’s life?