**The Crucible Study Guide**

**ACT I**

1. "So now they and their church found it necessary to deny any other sect its freedom, lest their New Jerusalem be defiled and corrupted by wrong and deceitful ideas." What is the irony in that statement?

2. Explain how the witch-hunt years were a time of "general revenge."

3. Identify Tituba, Abigail, and Betty.

4. Why does Mrs. Putnam believe there are witches in Salem?

5. Why is Thomas Putnam bitter?

6. Parris says, "Oh, Abigail, what proper payment for my charity! Now I am undone!" What does that mean?

7. What is Mary's argument to Abby?

8. Describe Proctor.

9. What happened between Abigail and John Proctor prior to the opening of the play?

10. What was the "sign" that Betty was bewitched?

11. Identify Francis and Rebecca Nurse.

12. Explain the political relationship between the Putnam and Nurse families.

13. What did Rebecca do to Betty?

14. What is Rebecca's explanation of the girls' behavior?

15. "There are wheels within wheels in this village and fires within fires." Explain.

16. What is Proctor's reason for his not regularly attending church?

17. What does Parris want?

18. Giles says, "Think on it now, it's a deep thing, and dark as a pit." To what is he referring literally and symbolically?

19. What do Putnam and Proctor argue about? What does this show?

20. Who is Rev. John Hale, and why does he come to Salem?

21. Hale says, "They [the books] must be [heavy]; they are weighted with authority." What is the significance of this remark?

22. To what did Tituba confess? Why?

23. What do the girls do at the end of Act One?

**ACT II**

1. Where does Elizabeth want John to go, and what does she want him to do there?

2. What is John's response to her prodding?

3. What gift did Mary give Elizabeth?

4. What was the "evidence" against Sarah Good?

5. Why doesn't Proctor want Mary to go back to court?

6. Why does Elizabeth think Abigail wants to kill her?

7. Why did Hale come to Proctor's house?

8. What things are "suspicious" about Proctor and his family?

9. Hale asks Elizabeth if she believes in witches. What is her reply?

10. On what charge(s) was Rebecca Nurse arrested?

11. Why does Cheever come to the Proctor house?

12. Explain the significance of the needle in the "poppet."

13. What will happen to Proctor if he tries to discredit Abby?

14. Why doesn't Mary want to testify about the doll?

**ACT III**

1.Why is Giles Cory expelled from court?

2. Why won’t Danforth hear his evidence?

3. Why is Cory arrested?

4. Why is Mary Warren in court?

5.What does she tell Danforth?

6. Why is Danforth suspicious of her and of Proctor?

7. Why does Proctor remind her of the angel Raphael?

8. How does Parris nullify Proctor’s testament?

9. How is Giles’s deposition turned against him?

10. What is the professed purpose of the court?

11.Why doesn’t the court need witnesses?

12. What does this suggest about the proceedings?

13. Why does Proctor confess lechery?

14. Why does he think Danforth and Hathorne will believe his confession?

15. Why don’t they believe him?

16. How is Elizabeth’s testimony used against Proctor?

17. Why is this an unfair test of Elizabeth’s word against John’s?

18. How does Abigail turn the court against Mary Warren?

19. Why does Hale denounce the proceedings?

20. What should have been the effect of his denunciation? Why is it not?

Sources: <http://www.penguin.com/static/pdf/teachersguides/crucible.pdf>

<http://www.oncoursesystems.com/school/webpage/471173/817028>