The Crucible Study Guide

Characters: Please identify the importance of the character in the story and explain the main events this character influenced. Be specific. Use examples from the story.

Rev. Parris-
Betty Parris-
Tituba-
Abigail Williams-
Susanna Walcott-
Ann Putnam-
Thomas Putnam-
Ruth Putnam-
Mercy Lewis-
Mary Warren-
John Proctor-
Rebecca Nurse-
Giles Corey-
Martha Corey-
Rev. Hale-
Elizabeth Proctor-
Francis Nurse-
Ezekiel Cheever-
Marshal Herrick-
Judge Hathorne-
Dep. Gov. Danforth-
Sarah Good-
Hopkins-
Possible Test Questions:

1. In Act I explain three different ways actions escalate or increase in number. Why is this important?

2. In Act I what do you learn about the characters of Abigail Williams, John Proctor, and Elizabeth Proctor which is definitely a source of struggle? How does this affect Acts II, III, and IV?

3. In Act II how does Mary Warren’s personality differ from Act I? How does her gift to Elizabeth begin the condemnation of Goody Proctor?

4. What is the irony surrounding John Proctor trying to recall the Commandments?

5. How does the town’s view of the teenage girls differ from Act I to Act II?

6. What “evidence” is used to condemn Sarah Good?

7. Why doesn’t Rev. Hale help the Proctors in Act II? How has he changed between Act I and Act II?

8. In Act III how does Giles Corey try to help and again harm himself and others?

9. Describe the personalities of Deputy Governor Danforth and Judge Hathorne. How do their personalities show in their actions?

10. What is the climax in Act III (and the play in some critics’ opinions)? What is the irony surrounding it?

11. The play begins in Spring and ends in Fall. How is this somehow appropriate?

12. What happens in Andover in Act IV?

13. What does Danforth say are his reasons for not postponing the executions or pardoning any prisoners? How does Rev. Hale counter this argument?

14. What condition does Rev. Hale say the town is in? Why is the town in such a state?

15. In Act IV summarize Rev. Hale’s reason for wanting John Proctor to confess his crime and save his life. What is John Proctor’s opposing view?

16. How does Giles Corey die in Act IV? Why?

17. Why can’t John Proctor face Rebecca Nurse when she arrives in the room where John decides whether to confess or not?

18. Ultimately, why does John Proctor tear up the confession?

19. Look at the final scenes of each act. How do they end? Why does Arthur Miller end the acts in such a way? What purpose does it serve?

20. How do the following characters change from Act I to Act IV: Rev. Hale, Rev. Parris, Elizabeth Proctor, and the townspeople in general?