***The Crucible* Study Guide Questions**

**Directions:** As you read, answer the following questions in complete sentences. You may type the answers into the document or write them on a separate sheet of paper.

**Act I**

1. Who are Reverend Parris, Betty, and Abigail? What is their relationship?
2. Who is Tituba? What is her relationship to the family?
3. What is wrong with Betty Parris?
4. Why does Parris suggest calling in Reverend Hale?
5. Who are Ann and Thomas Putnam, and what do they suggest Betty’s problem to be?
6. Reverend Parris is worried that Abigail’s actions have jeopardized something important. What is jeopardized?
7. Who is Ruth; what is wrong with her, and how do the Putnam’s tie her problem to Betty’s problem?
8. What does the problem between Abigail, Mercy Lewis, Mary Warren, and Betty reveal about their recent activities?
9. What does Abigail say she will bring to those who breathe a word of truth?
10. What event transpired between Abigail and John Proctor prior to the beginning of Act I?
11. What does Abigail say about Elizabeth Proctor?
12. How might this affect the outcome of the play?
13. Why do the Putnams resent the Nurses?
14. What does Rebecca Nurse say about Betty’s condition?
15. Provide two examples given for why Parris is considered to be an ineffective minister.
16. What is Putnam’s grievance over land?
17. How does Hale confuse Tituba?
18. What is the motivation for the girls’ accusations at the end of ActI?

**Act II**

1. What does the scene between Elizabeth and John Proctor reveal about their relationship and about the characters?
2. What does Elizabeth encourage John to do?
3. Explain Elizabeth’s statement: “John, if it were not Abigail that you must go to hurt, would you falter now? I think not.”
4. What is the gift Mary Warren gives to Elizabeth?
5. What role is Mary Warren playing at the trial?
6. Mary Warren tells Proctor that those accused will not hang if they do something. What must they do?
7. Explain why Mary Warren thinks Elizabeth should speak civilly to her.
8. Why does Reverend Hale come to Proctor’s home?
9. What does Proctor tell Hale about the children’s illness?
10. What event begins to change Hale’s opinion about the arrests?
11. Who do you think is Elizabeth’s accuser, and why?
12. Which of the Ten Commandments does John Proctor forget?
13. How are the following two events connected?
14. Walcott buying a pig
15. Martha Corey being accused of witchcraft
16. Explain the allusion Proctor makes to Pontius Pilot.

**Act III**

1. What is the significance behind the scene’s discussion between Hathorne, Danforth, Martha Corey, and Giles Corey?
2. Who does Proctor bring to court with him?
3. What does Mary Warren tell Judge Danforth?
4. What arrangement does Danforth make for Elizabeth regarding the date of her hanging?
5. Danforth assumes Proctor would drop his fight once Elizabeth’s arrangement is made. Why does Proctor refuse to back down?
6. What document does Proctor present to Danforth, and what does the document say?
7. What does Danforth do to those who signed the document present by Proctor?
8. Explain the statement made by Danforth: “A person is either with this court or he or she must be counted against it; there be no roads in between.” Is this true?
9. What accusation does Giles Corey make against Putnam?
10. What information does Corey withhold from the court?
11. Who does Danforth say can best identify a witch?
12. What change occurs in the opinion of Reverend Hale?
13. Does Mary Warren actually admit that she lied, even when she ken innocent people would hang by her evidence?
14. What can Mary Warren not do when requested?
15. What secret does John Proctor openly admit to Danforth?
16. What lie does Elizabeth tell, and how is this ironic?
17. What does Mary Warren say to reverse the reversal of prior testimony?
18. What evidence is there that Reverend Hale no longer believes the testimony and crying out of the girls?
19. What do the girls do to convince the men otherwise? How do their actions further confuse Mary?

**Act IV**

1. During what time of day does Act IV open?
2. Whose presence in the jail makes Danforth upset?
3. Cheever says that cows are running freely in the streets. Why are they roaming?
4. Who does Parris say has robbed him and vanished from town?
5. How many people have hanged at this point, and why does Danforth refuse to postpone the hangings?
6. Is Elizabeth really pregnant?
7. Reverend Hale offers four signs that the town is being ruined. Please list these signs.
8. Who are the officials planning to hang when the sun rises?
9. Does Rebecca confess to witchcraft?
10. Give two reasons why Giles Corey is smart for not admitting or denying the charges against him.
11. What are Giles Corey’s last words, and how does he die?
12. What does Proctor admit to?
13. What does Proctor not sign?
14. Why would Proctor admit but not sign?
15. How does Proctor think Danforth is using him?
16. What finally happens to Proctor’s confession?
17. What happens to John Proctor?
18. List the fates of the following characters.
19. Reverend Paris
20. Tituba
21. Abigail Williams
22. John Proctor
23. Rebecca Nurse
24. Giles Corey
25. Martha Corey
26. Reverend Hale
27. Elizabeth Proctor