**“The Crucible”**

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Study Questions:** Answer each fully (sometimes in sentences, sometimes the answer is just a word or two).  Keep these questions and study for your test.

 **Act I**

1. What was Samuel Parris’s attitude toward children? **He didn’t like them.**

 2. Why do you think Rev. Parris has many enemies? **He has been selfish, he is gaudy**

3. After Parris begins to believe his daughter to be afflicted by witchcraft, what is Thomas Putnam’s advice to him? **Putnam tells him that he should announce it, or it will look suspicious**

4. What truths come out when the adults leave the girls alone? **We learn that Abigail is the ring leader of the lies**

 5. What’s going on between Abigail and John Proctor? **They had an affair when she worked in the Proctor’s home**

  6. Why does Betty start screaming? **She wants her mother; she goes to the window, she starts accusing people**

7. Why are some people, including John Proctor, inclined to stay away from Sabbath meeting? **They don’t like Reverend Parris**

 8. Why does Hale believe the Devil would strike Rev. Parris’s house? **The devil wants the “best soul” THE REVEREND**

 9. Though Rev. Hale is trying to get Tituba to name her accomplices, who is the first person to actually mention names? **Parris, Putnam, Abigail**

 10. Why isn’t it difficult for Ann Putnam to believe that Goody Osburn is a witch? **She was just an old drunk**

  **Act II**

11. What do you know about the relationship between John and Elizabeth Proctor from the stage action and opening dialogue of Act II?

**They aren’t happy in their marriage**

 12. Describe the power Abigail has in the court room. **She controls everything; all the girls listen to her**

 14. Though Mary Warren cannot say who accused Elizabeth Proctor, who do you believe accused her and why? **Abigail, so that she can be with John**

 15. Ironically, which commandment can John not remember? **Adultery**

 16. John Proctor seems to be the only voice of reason in the confusing end of Act II.  What are some examples to support this idea?

  **He points out that everyone is listening to a bunch of kids with no proof**

17. Why is Mary Warren afraid of telling the truth about Abigail, for herself and for John?

 **She is afraid of Abigail and she doesn’t want her to tell the court about John’s affair**

 **Act III**

18. Over and over, Danforth says that the good have nothing to fear.  What evidence can you give to show that the opposite is true?

 **The people accused were all good people**

 19. Danforth gives the premise for judging a witch.  Summarize his guidelines. **Only the witch and the victim can testify.**

 20. Mary Warren's testimony is destroyed in the end because she cannot do something.  What?  How does she explain the problem?

   **Faint; Abigail had her brainwashed**

21. Finally, Proctor admits that he and Abigail have been lovers.  This truth could be the end of Abigail’s control.  Why isn’t it?

 **Elizabeth lied and said it didn’t happen**

 22. What is the importance of John Proctor’s last speech (in Act III)? **He shows that he has changed. He is a good person and has given up on the good in society**

  **Act IV**

23. What is Hale’s mission in Act IV? **To get the accused to confess to avoid hanging**

  24. Parris tells Danforth, “You cannot hang this sort” (123).  What does he mean? **He means they are too well respected in the community to be executed; the town will revolt**

 25. Why won’t Danforth pardon the prisoners? **He has already hanged too many others, it would seem wishy-washy**

26. Do you think Elizabeth Proctor would confess if she were in her husband’s place?  Explain. **Yes. She wanted to protect him, not herself.**

27. In the end, what is it that is of utmost importance to John Proctor? How does this relate to our themes? **His pride. He is too proud to admit to something he didn’t do, which leads to his demise.**

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**The Tragic Hero**

**Aristotle's ideas about tragedy were recorded in his book of literary theory titled** [**Poetics**](http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/poetics.sum.html)**.   In it, he has a great deal to say about the structure, purpose, and intended effect of tragedy.  His ideas have been adopted, disputed, expanded, and discussed for several centuries now.*The following is a summary of his basic ideas regarding the tragic hero:***

**1.  The tragic hero is a character of noble stature and has greatness.  This should be readily evident in the play.  The character must occupy a "high" status position but must ALSO embody nobility and virtue as part of his/her innate character.**

**2.  Though the tragic hero is pre-eminently great, he/she is not perfect.  Otherwise, the rest of us--mere mortals--would be unable to identify with the tragic hero.  We should see in him or her someone who is essentially like us, although perhaps elevated to a higher position in society.**

**3.  The hero's downfall, therefore, is partially her/his own fault, the result of free choice, not of accident or villainy or some overriding, malignant fate.  In fact, the tragedy is usually triggered by some error of judgment or some character flaw that contributes to the hero's lack of perfection noted above.**

**4.  The hero's misfortunate is not wholly deserved. The punishment exceeds the crime.**

**5.  The fall is not pure loss. There is some increase in awareness, some gain in self-knowledge, some discovery on the part of the tragic hero.**

**6.  Though it arouses solemn emotion, tragedy does not leave its audience in a state of depression.  Aristotle argues that one function of tragedy is to arouse the "unhealthy" emotions of pity and fear and through a catharsis (which comes from watching the tragic hero's terrible fate) cleanse us of those emotions.**

**John Proctor is this story’s Tragic Hero. He is a good man, with good traits, but he has a couple of tragic flaws- he committed sins (adultery) and he was too prideful- which led to his demise.**