

The Crucible Vocabulary List

Act One

1. abomination—
2. conjured—
3. contention—
4. deference—
5. innate—
6. licentious—
7. manifestation—
8. paradox—
9. prodigious—
10. vindictive—

Act Two

1. ameliorate—
2. avid—
3. blasphemy—
4. crone—
5. flailing—
6. indignant—
7. pallor—
8. puppet—
9. vengeance—
10. wily—

Act Three

1. abundant—
2. auger—
3. deposition—
4. effrontery—
5. gait—
6. imperceptible—
7. incredulously—
8. plaintiff—
9. vestry—
10. wrath—

Act Four

1. agape—
2. beguile—
3. cleave—
4. disputation—
5. excommunication—
6. gaunt—
7. gibbet—
8. indictment—
9. reprieve—
10. sibilance—

1. Where and when is the opening scene of the play set?
2. Why has Parris sent for Reverend Hale from Beverly?
3. What do we learn about the events in the forest and Abigail Williams' connections with the Proctor family?
4. What does Ann Putnam claim in the play about her dead infant children?
5. Before the arrival of John Hale, what are some of the subjects for petty disagreement among the characters?
6. According to the stage directions, how does John Hale enter for the first time?
7. What happens when John Hale interrogates Tituba? How does the scene's atmosphere become hysterical?
8. Miller colors the play with dialect, or specific regional speech. Pick out some examples of dialect in this act.
9. One of Miller's major subjects in the play is the nature of authority. How are each of the following characters linked with the idea of authority in Act One?
 - a. Samuel Parris –
 - b. Thomas Putnam –
 - c. Rebecca Nurse –

How would you describe the atmosphere or mood at the end of this act? What might this atmosphere foreshadow about future events in the town of Salem?

QUESTIONS FOR ACT TWO OF *THE CRUCIBLE*

1. What duty has Mary Warren been performing in Salem?

2. What does Elizabeth Proctor report to her husband about the trials in Salem? What does she urge John to do?

3. What gift does Mary Warren present to Elizabeth?

4. What ominous revelation does Mary Warren make about Elizabeth's reputation? How does this disclosure serve to make the quarrel between Elizabeth and John even more heated?

5. What are some of the ways in which John Hale questions Proctor and his wife about their religious faith? How do the Proctors answer each of the questions and allegations?

6. What theological argument does John Hale use to explain the causes of the events in Salem?

7. What conflict does John Proctor face at the end of the act?

8. Explain how each of the following is an example of verbal, situational, or dramatic irony:
 - a. Mary's gift of a poppet to Elizabeth –

 - b. The one Commandment out of ten that John Proctor can't remember –

 - c. Proctor's statement about Abigail at the end of the act, "Good. Then her saintliness is done with."

9. Explain John Proctor's allusion as he tells Hale, "Pontius Pilate! God will not let you wash your hands of this!"

10. The end of this act hints that the most important conflict in the play, will take place between two specific characters—a protagonist and an antagonist. Who is the protagonist? Who is the antagonist?

QUESTIONS FOR ACT THREE OF *THE CRUCIBLE*

1. As the act opens, who is being interrogated, and on what charge?
2. What is Mary Warren now prepared to tell the court?
3. What compromise, or deal, does Danforth offer to Proctor? What is Proctor's response?
4. What does Giles Corey allege in his deposition about Thomas Putnam's motives?
5. At what point does John Hale begin to show that he is less than satisfied with the court's procedures?
6. How does Abigail threaten Danforth?
7. What confession does Proctor make in open court? How does Danforth test the truth of this confession?
8. What happens to John Proctor at the end of the act?
9. How does John Hale show his disapproval?
10. This act contains much irony. Explain how the following are ironic:
 - a. John Proctor's confession –
 - b. Proctor's passionate outburst at the end of the act with the court's interpretation of his remarks –

Miller's comment in the stage directions that Abigail, "out of her infinite charity, reaches out and draws the sobbing Mary to her..." –

QUESTIONS FOR ACT FOUR OF *THE CRUCIBLE*

1. What is the setting of this act? How much time has elapsed since the end of Act Three?
2. Immediately after his entrance Governor Danforth remarks on a "prodigious stench." What is the cause of the odor?
3. What does Samuel Parris report about Abigail Williams and Mercy Lewis and why is he afraid for his safety? What is Danforth's reaction?
4. Why is Danforth especially nervous about rumors concerning events in Andover? What are his reasons for receiving no pleas for pardon or for postponement of the executions?
5. According to John Hale, what is the present condition of the countryside?
6. According to Elizabeth, how did Giles Corey die?
7. For what does Elizabeth ask John to forgive her?
8. Why does Proctor refuse to sign his confession?
9. Why do you think Danforth is said to be alarmed at the news that Abigail and Mercy Lewis have fled? What inner conflict may this news rouse in him? How does this conflict affect the course of his decisions in this act?
10. What structural parallel in Act Two is recalled by John's tearing up of his confession near the end of this act? How does this parallel relate to a theme of the play?