*The Crucible*

By Arthur Miller

Discussion questions act 4

* [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.1](http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/RI/11-12/1/) Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.
* [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.3](http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/RI/11-12/3/) Analyze a complex set of ideas or sequence of events and explain how specific individuals, ideas, or events interact and develop over the course of the text.
* [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.7](http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/RI/11-12/7/) Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words in order to address a question or solve a problem.

1. Why do you think that Sarah Good and Tituba say that they are waiting for the devil?

1. Why problem might Hale be attempting to resolve by visiting with those who have been condemned and praying with them?
2. What is the real motive behind Reverend Hale’s visits to Rebecca and the other condemned women?
3. What news does Reverend Parris give the court?
4. How is Abigail’s disappearance a significant problem for Danforth? Why might she have decided to flee?
5. What threat has Reverend Parris received at his home? What message might the perpetrator be trying to send to Reverend Parris?
6. What is so **ironic** about Danforth’s comment to Hale when he says, “You misunderstand, sir; I cannot pardon these when 12 are already hanged for the same crime. It is not just.” What is revealed about Danforth’s character when he states that more must die in order to justify the executions that have already taken place; therefore, he will not accept any pleas for pardon or postponement?
7. Why does Hale cry out, “There is blood on my head! Can you not see the blood on my head!”
8. Explain the following **simile** used by Hale: “I came into this village like a bridegroom to his beloved, bearing gifts of high religion; the very crowns of holy law I brought, and what I touched with my bright confidence, it died; and where I turned the eye of my great faith, blood flowed up…” How does this **simile** make his description of the consequences of his actions both dramatic and shocking?
9. How does Hale justify his advising Elizabeth to persuade Proctor to lie? What character flaw does he warn her against?
10. How would Elizabeth’s convincing Proctor to confess represent a solution for Parris, Danforth and Hale?
11. Despite being ragged, dirty prisoners, John and Elizabeth Proctor seem to be elevated to heroic stature. How is this so?
12. How did Giles Corey die? What motivated Giles Corey to die without confessing?
13. What does John want from Elizabeth when they see each other for the first time since they’ve both been jailed?
14. How do John’s two choices, to remain silent or to confess, both cause a problem for him? What flaw does Elizabeth urge Proctor to forgive himself for? What flaw does Elizabeth see in herself?
15. Why does Elizabeth refuse to influence John’s decision to confess or not?
16. What does John finally admit to? Why is Rebecca Nurse astonished at Proctor’s choice of the solution to his problem?
17. How would Proctor’s admission to having seen Rebecca Nurse in the devil’s company solve a problem for Danforth?
18. Why is John Proctor reluctant to sign his name to the confession?
19. Proctor ends up signing this confession but then immediately tears it up afterwards. Why does he do that?
20. What does Proctor’s final decision mean for him? What does his decision mean for the town of Salem?
21. What does Elizabeth mean when she says that John has “his goodness now”?