

The Crucible: Act I, Scene 1 Questions

name:

Part A The characters:

Describe at least 2 characteristics of the following characters in Act I:

Reverend Parris

Betty

Tituba

Abigail

Mrs. Putnam

Mr. Putnam

Mercy Lewis

Mary Warren

John Proctor

Susanna Walcott

Rebecca Nurse

Francis Nurse

Giles Corey

Reverend Hale

Part B: The Problem: Describe the chaos that starts this tragic play (John Proctor is the modern tragic hero)

Part C: Act I Study Questions Revised

1. What do we learn in the opening narrative that is important to the events that follow?
2. What brought the girls to the woods the night before Act One -begins and what happens there?
3. How did the events come to light, and what was the effect on Betty and Ruth?
4. Why is the town so stirred up by these events?
5. What is Reverend Parris' first reaction to the crisis?
6. What reason does Ann Putnam have to be resentful?

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7. What reason does Thomas Putnam have to be resentful and not support Reverend Parris?
8. Why do the girls argue about whether or not to tell what really happened in the woods? What does Abby threaten?
9. What is the relationship between Abigail and John Proctor? Why was she dismissed from Proctor's service?
10. What moral fiber does John Proctor seem to have that is different from the majority of Salemites?
11. What does Rebecca think should be done about the mischief?
12. Why do Putnam, Giles Corey, and Proctor argue about clearing lumber from the land?
13. Why was the "Devil" used as a weapon?
14. Why have sex, sin and the Devil always been linked?
15. What does Hale mean by saying "the Devil is precise; the marks of his presence are as definite as stone."
16. What does Mr. Hale intend to do if incubi and succubi are found present in Salem? What are the incubi and succubi?
17. Why was Giles Corey such a spectacle in the town? Why does Giles not know what books his wife reads and why does Hale seem alarmed that Martha Corey is reading books?
18. Corey says he is often stopped and can't proceed in his prayers. How can that be logically explained?
19. What was Abigail's account of what happened in the woods?
20. What is Tituba's story of dealing with the Devil? What motivates her to make this story up?
21. Why does Abigail join in to supplement Tituba's witch list?