

Name: _____ Date _____ Hour _____

Arthur Miller's

THE CRUCIBLE

Act III Study Guide

Answer the following questions on your own using complete sentences.

1. Instead of witchcraft, what does Giles Corey say is the cause of Martha's trial (1291)?

2. What is the setting at the beginning of Act III (1291)?

3. Why has Proctor come to address the court (1294)?
 - a. What does Parris think is Proctor's reason for addressing the court (1294)?

4. How does the atmosphere around the court discourage defenses of the accused (1297)?

5. Why is Proctor's wife not going to die anytime soon?

6. Proctor gives the judge a list with 91 signatures affirming the good character of some of the accused. What does Parris want done to those 91 people (1297)?

7. Why won't Giles Corey give the court the name of the man who provided evidence against Putnam (1299)?

8. Hale asks, "Is every defense an attack upon the court?" and Danforth replies, "A person is either with this court or he must be counted against it." What does this statement reveal about the social context (think of McCarthyism)?
9. Why is Danforth hesitant to examine the new evidence (1294 + 1301)?
10. Parris declares, "We are here, Your Honor, precisely to discover what no one has ever seen." How does this statement reflect the ridiculous absurdity of the trials (1304)?
11. What surprising news does John receive concerning Elizabeth (1296)?
 - a. What statement does John make about Elizabeth's character?
12. Explain why Proctor uses the allusion to the story of Raphael and Tobias to encourage Mary (1298).
13. Mary Warren could faint before in court just a week before. Why can't she faint now (1306)? (hint: think about the context of her earlier fainting spells)
14. What is ironic about Abigail saying, "I have been hurt, Mr. Danforth... and this is my

reward? To be mistrusted, denied, questioned like a-“ (1307)

15. When Proctor says, “I have known her” what does he mean? (1309)

16. What is the dramatic irony involved in the scene with Elizabeth? (1310)

17. Why does Elizabeth lie? (1311)

18. Why do the girls repeat everything Mary says? (1312)

19. What causes Mary to accuse Proctor of being in league with Satan? (1314)

20. Explain the irony involved when Miller’s stage directions state that Abigail “out of her infinite charity, reaches out and draws the sobbing Mary to her.” (1314)

21. Hale has previously been completely in favor of the court’s proceedings. What are three examples from throughout Act III that shows he now doubts its justice?

22. Why does Hale quit the court?

Short answer: respond with a 5 – 8 sentence paragraph (need topic sentence containing thesis that restates the question, specific supporting details with analysis, and a concluding sentence)

23. The climax of the play is when John Proctor says “I Say – God is Dead!” Why is this line the climax of the play?