

The Crucible – Act 1 Questions

Act I

1. According to the opening dramatic exposition (author's description), how did most of the members of Salem feel about the vast forest that surrounded them?
2. What is Betty's condition when the play opens?
3. What seems to be the main motivation for Reverend Parris' concern about the girls' behavior in the forest?
4. Describe the conflicts between Reverend Parris and the village.
5. In Act 1, what seeds of conflict exist among Rebecca Nurse, Reverend Parris, Giles Corey, John Proctor, and the Putnams? Explain.
6. What truths come out when the adults leave the girls alone? What events does this scene suggest may occur later in the play (predict)?
7. Describe the conflict between Abigail Williams and John Proctor.
8. What kind of a person is Abigail, based upon the information provided in Act 1?

9. Why are some people, including John Proctor, inclined to stay away from church?

10. After Proctor's accusations regarding Reverend Parris, what topic does Parris bring up? What could this tell us about Reverend Parris?

11. Who is Reverend Hale, and why does he think Reverend Parris is the target of evil?

12. Though Rev. Hale is trying to get Tituba to name her accomplices, who is the first person to actually mention names?

13. Why isn't it difficult for Ann Putnam to believe that Goody Osburn is a witch?

14. What is the girls' probable motivation for their accusations at the end of Act 1?

15. After Reverend Hale's arrival, first John Proctor, then Rebecca Nurse leave the scene (Parris' house). How significant is this? What do the two characters represent in this play, based upon their reactions to the talk of witchcraft?