

Name _____

UNIT 1: ORIGINS

The Crucible: Act One Study Questions

Directions: Answer each of the following questions in complete sentences.

1. "So now they and their church found it necessary to deny any other sect its freedom, lest their New Jerusalem be defiled and corrupted by wrong and deceitful ideas." What is the irony in that statement?
2. Who are Reverend Parris, Betty, and Abigail? What is their relationship?
3. How does Miller characterize Parris? How does Parris feel about his parishoners?
4. Who is Tituba? What is her relationship to the family?
5. What is wrong with Betty?
6. Why does Parris suggest calling in Reverend Hale?
7. Who are Ann and Thomas Putnam? What do they suggest is Betty's problem? What is their motivation for suggesting this?

8. Who is Mercy Lewis? What is her relationship to the Putnams?
9. What does the conversation between Abigail, Mercy Lewis, Mary Warren, and Betty reveal about their recent activities?
10. Who is John Proctor? What is his relationship to Mary Warren? What is his relationship to Abigail? How does he feel about his relationship with Abigail?
11. Who is Elizabeth Proctor? What does Abigail think of her? How might this affect the outcome of the play?
12. Who is Rebecca Nurse? What is her role in the community?
13. Why is the issue of Parris's salary raised? What does it reveal?
14. What is the Putnams' grievance over land? (p. 32) What significance might this have in the play?
15. How and by whom are the other villagers accused of witchcraft? What is the motivation for the girls' accusations?