

The Crucible, Act I by Arthur Miller
Open-Book Test

Short Answer Write your responses to the questions in this section on the lines provided.

1. In Act I of *The Crucible*, what is wrong with Betty? Describe Abigail's and Tituba's reactions to Betty's condition.

2. In Act I of *The Crucible*, it is apparent that rumors have been flying through the town about incidents of witchcraft. Why are Abigail and Parris especially concerned about such rumors?

3. The girls' activities in the woods arouse Parris's suspicions and help to generate rumors of witchcraft. Explain how Parris's suspicions and the gathering rumors advance the dramatic exposition of Act I of *The Crucible*.

4. Review the stage directions concerning the characters of Thomas Putnam and John Proctor in Act I of *The Crucible*. Then briefly explain how those stage directions help to portray the personality of each character.

5. How would you describe the relationship between Abigail and the Proctors in Act I of *The Crucible*? Give one example from the play that sheds light on their relationship.

6. What motivates Tituba to begin naming names to the Reverend Hale toward the end of Act I of *The Crucible*? How does her naming of names advance an important part of the drama of the play?

7. Abigail Williams plays a significant role in advancing the action of Act I of *The Crucible*. How would you describe her character?

8. In Act I of *The Crucible*, there's a scene in which the girls are alone conversing with one another. What can you infer about Abigail's influence over the other girls from this scene? Where does her influence come from?

9. Reread the stage directions from Act I of *The Crucible* that appear below. From these stage directions, what can you conclude about Tituba's cooperative behavior toward the Reverend Hale at the end of Act I?

TITUBA: *terrified, falls to her knees*
TITUBA: *frightened by the coming process*

10. If the judge at a trial told a witness that he thought he was dissembling in his testimony, would the judge be complimenting or criticizing the witness? Explain your response, basing it on the meaning of *dissembling* as it is used in Act I of *The Crucible*.

Essay

Write an extended response to the question of your choice or to the question or questions your teacher assigns you.

11. The plot developments come quickly in Act I of *The Crucible*. Much of the gathering hysteria over witchcraft arises from the episode in the woods involving Abigail, Tituba, and the other girls. In an essay, recount this key plot development: what the girls were doing in the woods, what Parris saw when he came across them, and why their activity has stirred up such suspicion and disapproval.