

Act II

VOCABULARY

ameliorate – to make better or more tolerable
base – low; vulgar
daft – crazy; idiotic
falter – to hesitate
indignant – angry over something unjust
ineptly – incompetently; foolishly
lechery – sexual indulgence
lief – willingly; gladly
pious – faithfully religious
poppet – a doll

Proceedings
Condemnation
Magistrates

1. Describe the relationship between John and Elizabeth Proctor at the beginning of this scene.

2. What does Elizabeth want John to do?

3. Why is John unable to prove what Abigail told him? Why does Elizabeth pick up on this?

4. Explain how John's statement "It's winter in here yet...we'll walk the farm together" is an example of imagery.

5. In what way has Mary Warren changed, and what changed her?

6. What does Mary Warren give Elizabeth Proctor?

7. Why does John Proctor stop short of whipping Mary Warren?

8. Who does Elizabeth think called out her name and why?

9. What does Elizabeth want John to do now that she has been accused?

10. Why is John reluctant to do as Elizabeth asks?

11. Why has the Rev. Hale come to the Proctors' house?

12. Explain how the candlesticks symbolize Rev. Parris's personality.

13. What commandment does John Proctor forget? Why is his inability to remember significant?

14. As proof of witchcraft, Rev. Hale points out that a number of people have already confessed to being witches. What is Proctor's response?

15. Who stuck the pin in Abigail's belly and why?

16. Proctor calls Hale "Pontius Pilate." Explain the significance of this biblical allusion.

17. To what does Hale attribute the calamity that has befallen Salem?

18. What does Hale's attribution mean to Proctor?

19. According to Mary Warren, what will Abby do if Proctor goes into court to denounce her?

20. What is Proctor's response?

21. Why is Mary afraid to say anything in court?
