

Act III

VOCABULARY

anteroom – a waiting room or foyer
apparitions – ghosts; visions
befuddled – confused; muddled
callously – cruelly
deposition – a testimony under oath
effrontery – shameless boldness
gulling – deceiving; fooling
immaculate – pure
ipso facto – *Latin*: “by that very fact”; therefore
partitioning – dividing
perjury – the crime of lying under oath
placidly – calmly
probity – uprightness
qualm – a feeling of doubt or worry
remorseless – without a regret
slovenly – untidy
sublime – supreme; grand
tittle – a tiny part
unperturbed – not bothered; not upset
vestry – a room used for church meetings and classes

1. Why does Giles say that he “broke charity” with his wife?

2. In what way is the Coreys’ situation similar to that of John and Elizabeth Proctor?

3. How has Rev. Hale changed since Act II?

4. Why is Mary Warren's testimony critical for Hale, Proctor, Nurse, and Corey?

5. What does Mary Warren tell Deputy Governor Danforth?

6. Explain the significance of Danforth's statement: "We burn a hot fire here; it melts down all concealment."

7. Why does Danforth find it hard to believe that Abigail could be pretending and, in effect, be a murderer?

8. Why does Proctor say that his wife must be pregnant if she has said so?

9. Why does Proctor not drop the charges against the court when he hears that his wife is pregnant and will be spared for at least a year?

10. What will happen to the ninety-one people who signed the petition in support of the accused?

11. What is the charge that Giles Corey makes against Putnam?

12. What is Giles Corey's proof for his charge, and why will he not supply the proof to the court? Relate this to the McCarthy Hearings.

13. How does the questioning of Mary Warren differ from the questioning of Abigail, and why does it differ?

14. Why is Mary unable to faint when asked by the court?

15. When Abigail is questioned by Danforth, how does she respond?

16. In calling Abigail a whore, what charge and punishment does Proctor open himself to? Why has he made this confession?

17. What test is Elizabeth given, and how does she fail it?

18. Why is Elizabeth's failing the test ironic?

19. What finally causes Mary Warren to agree with Abigail?

20. On what dramatic note does Act III end?
