

The Crucible, Act IV by Arthur Miller

Open-Book Test

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

1. Based on the conversation involving Tituba, Sarah Good, and Herrick at the beginning of Act IV of *The Crucible*, what obsession of the day is weighing heavily on these characters?

2. In Act IV of *The Crucible*, Cheever comments on the “many cows wanderin’ the highroads, now their masters are in jail and much disagreement who they will belong to now.” What does the report of wandering cows symbolize about the effects of the witch trails on the society of Salem?

3. In Act IV of *The Crucible*, Parris complains to Danforth about the disappearance of Abigail and her apparent theft of his savings, as well as about the signs of growing discontent in the community over the wave of executions. Why does Danforth respond to him with contempt?

4. In Act IV of *The Crucible*, what does Danforth’s determination to proceed immediately with the executions symbolize about the nature of the legal system? Explain your answer.

5. In Act IV of *The Crucible*, there are reports that the people of Andover have refused to cooperate with the witchcraft court there. What can the reader infer about the citizens of Andover from these reports?

6. In Act IV of *The Crucible*, it is evident that Elizabeth Proctor has changed during her imprisonment. How has she changed? Explain your answer, citing details from the text to support your answer.

7. In *The Crucible*, the line between religious and governmental authority is easily blurred and sometimes nonexistent. How is the relationship between church and state different in the present-day United States from the way it was at the time of *The Crucible*?

8. In Act IV of *The Crucible*, John Proctor anguishes over having his signed confession made public. In what respect is Proctor's determination to preserve his good name, and his resulting tragic downfall, an echo of the McCarthy era of the 1950s?

9. One definition of the word *crucible* is "a severe test." Use the chart below to identify the key way in which each of the listed characters is tested by the events of *The Crucible*. Then, in the right-hand column, indicate whether that character passed or failed the "test."

Character	Test	Passed or Failed
Reverend Parris		
Reverend Hale		
Judge Danforth		
Elizabeth Proctor		
John Proctor		

10. If, after an argument with a friend, you wrote him a conciliatory note, would you be attempting to resolve the conflict? Why or why not? Base your answer on the meaning of *conciliatory* as it is used in Act IV of *The Crucible*.
