

Act IV

VOCABULARY

adamant – unyielding; inflexible
beguile – to deceive
belie – to contradict; to give a false impression
excommunication – exclusion from the church or community
gaunt – excessively thin
gibbet – the gallows
prevail – to successfully persuade
purged – emptied
reprieve – a stay of execution
retaliation – revenge
sibilance – a noise or word having a *sss* or *shh* sound
tantalized – teased by something desirable that is out of reach

Consiliatory
disputation

1. Explain the significance of the comic relief in the opening scene with Tituba, Sarah Good, and Marshal Herrick.

2. What is the relationship between the rebellion in Andover and the flight of Abigail and Mercy Lewis?

3. What do the orphans, wandering cows, and rotting crops indicate?

4. Why is Parris upset?

5. Why is it important for the court to get one of the accused respectable citizens, such as John Proctor or Rebecca Nurse, to confess?

6. Why is Rev. Hale telling the accused to lie?

7. What does the court want of Elizabeth Proctor?

8. How did Giles Corey die? Why did he die in this manner?

9. Why does Proctor call himself a fraud?

10. What responsibility does Elizabeth accept for Proctor's lechery? What does she advise him to do?

11. What event makes Proctor take back his confession? What is the significance of this event?

12. How is this retraction a climax for John Proctor?
