

Part I. (#1-16)– Literary Analysis

Read the following passages from *The Crucible* and answer the multiple-choice questions that follow.

From Act II

Hale: (*nods deliberating this. Then, with the voice of one administering a secret test*) Do you know your Commandments, Elizabeth?

Elizabeth: (*without hesitation, even eagerly*) I surely do. There be no mark of blame upon my life, Mr. Hale. I am a covenanted Christian woman.

Hale: And you, Mister?

Proctor: (*a trifle unsteadily*) I – am sure I do.

Hale: (*glances at her open face, then at John, then*) Let you repeat them, if you will. [...]

Proctor: (*looking off, beginning to sweat*) Thou shalt not kill.

Hale: Aye.

Proctor: (*counting on his fingers*) Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's goods, nor make unto thee any graven image. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord in vain; thou shalt have no other gods before me. (*With some hesitation*) Thou shalt remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy. (*Pause; then*) Thou shalt honor thy father and mother. Thou shalt not bear false witness. (*He is stuck. He counts back on his fingers, knowing one is missing*) Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.

Hale: You have said that twice, sir.

Proctor: (lost) Aye. (He is flailing for it)

Elizabeth: (*delicately*) Adultery, John.

Proctor: (*as though a secret arrow had pained his heart*) Aye. (*Trying to grin it away – to Hale*) You see, sir, between the two of us we do know them all. A small fault.

Hale: Theology, sir, is a fortress; no crack in a fortress may be accounted small

Characterization

1. What does the preceding conversation reveal about Hale?
 - A. He is not a reverend.
 - B. He doesn't completely trust the Proctors.
 - C. He is similar to Rev. Parris
 - D. He is a witch hunter.
2. What does Proctor's difficulty in naming adultery as one of the commandments tell the reader about him?
 - A. Adultery is a topic that he wants to avoid.
 - B. Proctor has bad long-term memory problems.
 - C. He has a difficult time pronouncing the word.
 - D. Elizabeth is his protector.
3. John Proctor forgot to name the one commandment he broke. What type of **irony** is this?
 - A. Situational Irony
 - B. Verbal Irony
 - C. Dramatic Irony
4. What is the **setting** of this scene?
 - A. The courthouse
 - B. the gallows
 - C. the church
 - D. the Proctor house
 - E. the Parris house
5. Hale's final line in the preceding passage is an example of what literary device?
 - A. simile
 - B. metaphor
 - C. personification
 - D. allusion
 - E. irony

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6. How does the setting of the play (a Puritan village) affect the **mood**?
- A. The mood is very laid-back and easy. B. The mood is strict and serious.
C. The mood is random and unexpected. D. There is no mood of this play.
7. Hale reasons that because Proctor does not know all the commandments, this could be a reflection of his faith. What type of **logical fallacy** is he making?
- A. Red Herring B. Overgeneralization C. Band Wagon D. Ad Hominem
8. What is the **theme** of this passage?
- A. Witches are all burned. B. Justice comes to everyone in time.
C. The Puritans were crazy. D. The guilty condemn themselves.

From Act III

Abigail Williams and the other girls of the town are accusing Mary Warren, who has stepped up to confess their lies, of practicing black magic. They are yelling at her “spirit” which is in the rafters of the court...

Mary Warren: (*screaming at the top of her lungs, and raising her fists*) Stop it!!

Girls: (*raising their fists*) Stop it!! (*Mary Warren, utterly confounded, and becoming overwhelmed by Abigail’s – and the girls – utter conviction, starts to whimper, hands half raised, powerless and all the girls begin whimpering exactly as she does.*)

Danforth: A while ago you were afflicted. Now it seems you afflict others; where did you find this power?

Mary Warren: (*staring at Abigail*) I – have no power.

Girls: I have no power.

Proctor: They’re gulling you, Mister!

Danforth: Why did you turn about this past two weeks? You have seen the Devil, have you not?

Hale: (*indicating Abigail and the girls*) You cannot believe them! [...]

Parris: Cast the Devil out! Look him in the face! Trample him! We’ll save you, Mary, only stand fast against him and –

Abigail: (*Looking up*) Look out! She’s coming down! (*The girls run screaming from the court, with only Mary left, screaming madly at the rafters. Proctor approaches*)

Proctor: Mary, tell the Governor what they – (*He has hardly got a word out, when, seeing him coming for her, she rushes out of his reach, screaming in horror*)

Mary Warren: Don’t touch me – don’t touch me! (*The girls gather in the doorway*) [...]

Proctor: (*astonished*) Mary!

Mary Warren: (*pointing at Proctor*) You’re the Devil’s man! (*He stops in his tracks*)

Parris: Praise God!

Girls: Praise God!

Proctor: (numbed) Mary, how –

Mary Warren: I’ll not hang with you! I love God, I love God. [...] (*Sobbing, she rushes to Abigail*) Abby, Abby, I’ll never hurt you more! (*They all watch, as Abigail, out of her infinite charity, reaches out and draws the sobbing Mary to her, and then looks up at Danforth*)

9. How does preceding scene between Mary Warren and Abigail **indirectly characterize** Abigail?
- A. Abigail is manipulative. B. Abigail is younger and more immature than Mary.
C. Abigail is in love with John. D. Abigail is an orphan and is angry at her loneliness.
10. How does Mary Warren’s **character change** in this passage?
- A. She goes from being quiet to being loud. B. She goes from being loud to being quiet.
C. She goes from being dishonest to being honest. D. She goes from being honest to being dishonest.

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11. Who is functioning as the **antagonist** in this scene?
A. Proctor B. Danforth C. Abigail D. Parris E. Mary Warren
12. Which of the following lines *best indicates* Mary's change?
A. "Cast the Devil out! Look him in the face!" B. "No, I love God; I go your way no more."
C. "They're only sportin'! Stop it, Abigail!" D. "I have no power."
13. What is the **conflict** of this scene?
A. Mary Warren is feeling alone. B. Abigail is having glorious visions.
C. Proctor committed adultery. D. Mary is fighting with John Proctor.
14. Based on your response to #13, what is the conflict type?
A. Man vs. man B. Man vs. society C. Man vs. nature D. Man vs. Self
15. The final stage directions and narration, in which Abigail is described as reaching out with "infinite charity" is an example of which type of **irony**?
A. Situational Irony B. Verbal Irony C. Dramatic Irony
16. Which **theme** does this scene best represent?
A. It is difficult to be an individual in a pressured society.
B. Justice comes to everyone in time.
C. Compassion and forgiveness are needed to move on from a problem.
D. Religion does not give consistent rules.
E. Respect and reputation is higher than all else.

Part II. (#17-30) Reading Comprehension – Quick Plot Recall

17. What is the setting of the play?
A. Boston, Massachusetts, 1692 B. Salem, Massachusetts, 1692
C. Salem, Massachusetts, 1850 D. Boston, Massachusetts, 1850
18. The Rev. Hale of Beverly has been summoned to determine whether _____.
A. there is witchcraft in Salem B. enough money has been collected for the poor
C. Parris should be replaced D. the Putnams attend church regularly
19. Giles Corey tells Hale that he is upset because he cannot _____.
A. sleep while his wife prays B. read while his wife sews
C. concentrate while his wife sings D. pray while his wife reads
20. Mary Warren gives Elizabeth a gift of a _____.
A. sewing kit B. pillow C. dress D. flowers E. poppet
21. Who is the first person that Abigail claims practiced witchcraft?
A. Goody Osborne B. Bridget Bishop C. Mary Sibber D. Mary Warren E. Tituba
22. How would Mr. Putnam best be **characterized**?
A. greedy B. foolish C. a leader D. intelligent E. depressed
23. Which of the following characters does not die in the play?
A. Rebecca Nurse B. John Proctor C. Tituba D. Giles Corey E. George Jacobs
24. Why will the court not hang Elizabeth even if she is found guilty?
A. She is a woman. B. She is pregnant. C. She is well-respected in the community.
D. She black-mailed them. E. She is Proctor's wife, and someone needs to look over the children.

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25. Why does Hale return to Salem after quitting the court?

- A. He feels guilty and wants to convince the accused to confess in order for them to live, even if it is the jail.
- B. He wants to be present for the death of Rebecca Nurse and John Proctor to pray for them.
- C. He wants to fight with the court to change their decisions.
- D. He wants to remove Parris from office and become Salem's reverend.
- E. He feels validation for his actions in Andover and wants to lecture in Salem as well.

26. Who was the girl the villagers first thought was bewitched?

- A. Betty Parris
- B. Abigail Williams
- C. Mercy Lewis
- D. Mary Warren
- E. Tituba

27. Which of the following is not evidence Salem is in a state of disorder and rebellion in act IV?

- A. Many townspeople did not attend the reading of the excommunications or church service.
- B. Reverend Parris found a dagger in his door.
- C. Cows and other livestock are roaming the fields without barriers or owners.
- D. Children are running around from house to house in the town due to their guardians being in the jail.
- E. Judge Danforth is unwilling to postpone the hangings because he does not want the court to look weak.

Part III – (#28-33) Character Recognition

Directions: Match each character quote with the character who stated it; names are referred to more than once.

- A. Abigail Williams
- B. John Proctor
- C. Elizabeth Proctor
- D. Hale
- E. Danforth

28. "If you think that I am [a witch], then I say there are none!"

29. "A fire, a fire is burning! I hear the boot of Lucifer, I see his filthy face! [...] For them that quail to bring men out of ignorance, as I have quailed, and as you quail now when you know in all your black hearts that this be fraud—God damns our kind especially, and we will burn, we will burn together!"

30. "We cannot look to superstition in this. The Devil is precise."

31. "I have seen my blood runnin' out! I have been near to murdered every day because I done my duty pointing out the Devil's people—and this is my reward?"

32. "You must understand, sir, that a person is either with this court or he must be counted against it, there be no road between."

33. "Why, it is all simple. I come to do the Devil's work...There is blood on my head. Can you not see the blood on my head!"

Part IV (#34-45) – Vocabulary

Directions: Match the vocabulary word with the definition.

- 34. immaculate
 - 35. faction
 - 36. contemplation
 - 37. reprieve
 - 38. rescind
- A. to delay or temporarily relieve the punishment or sentence of a condemned person
 - B. thoughtful observation. full or deep consideration; reflection; purposeful thinking
 - C. a group or clique within a larger group, party, government, or similar organization
 - D. to revoke, repeal, annul, cancel, or invalidate by a later action or a higher authority.
 - E. free from spot or stain; spotlessly clean; free from moral blemish

Directions: For #39-40, identify the word that has the same **denotative meaning** as the underlined word.

39. Hale was at first incredulous, but he eventually learned and accepted the truth.

- A. definite
- B. gullible
- C. foolish
- D. unique
- E. unbelieving

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40. You cannot evade me.

- A. lie to B. avoid C. question D. trick E. distract

Directions: Match the vocabulary word with the definition.

41. perplexed A. devoutly religious mouth-wide open, amazed with wonder
42. indignant B. mouth-wide open, amazed with wonder
43. inept C. feeling or showing anger or annoyance at what is perceived as unfair treatment
44. pious D. unskilled, clumsy
45. agape E. bewilderment or confusion

Part V. (#46-53) Literary Devices & Language Conventions

46. Elizabeth says, “Abigail brings the other girls into the court, and where she walks the crowd will part like the sea for Israel.” What type of **literary device** is this?

- A. metaphor B. personification C. archetype D. allusion E. irony

47. Rebecca Nurse is the wise old woman, Abigail is the temptress, and Giles Corey is the sidekick. There are all examples of which **literary device**?

- A. metaphor B. personification C. archetype D. allusion E. irony

Directions:

48. archetype A. signals a difference between the appearance of things and reality
49. allusion B. a universally recognized image, symbol, character, or situation that recurs frequently throughout literature
50. denotation C. associated or secondary meaning of a word or expression in addition to its explicit or primary meaning:
51. connotation D. literal meaning of a word as distinguished from the ideas or meanings associated with it
52. irony E. casual reference; an incidental mention of something, either directly or by implication to a known piece of work

For #53-57, identify the represented type of irony.

- A. Dramatic Irony B. Situational Irony C. Verbal Irony

53. Giles Corey, a talkative character, is pressed to death and charged with contempt of court.
54. When questioned about a poppet that could have been hidden, John Proctor responds, “There might also be a dragon with five legs in my house, but no one has ever seen it.”
55. Proctor tells Danforth that Elizabeth “in her life...she have never lied. There are them that cannot sing, and them that cannot weep—my wife cannot lie”, and yet, she does when questioned by Danforth.
56. Elizabeth lies to defend John Proctor’s reputation.
57. The Puritan belief was that “children should be seen and not heard.”

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Directions: For #58-63, pick the appropriate letter.

58. Neither the villagers nor Abigail (**A-take, B- takes**) full responsibility for the deaths of the wrongly accused.
59. Either John Proctor or the girls (**A-has, B- have**) gone illogical and mad.
60. Abigail and the girls (**A-conspire, B-conspires**) against Mary Warren.
61. In which of the following sentences should a semicolon replace the comma?
- A. Of the major characters, Abigail is the least complex.
 - B. Reputation is important in theocratic Salem, where public and private moralities are the same.
 - C. The witch trials are central to the action, and dramatic accusations and confessions fill the play.
 - D. Many falsely confessed during the witch trials, Tituba was one of the first victims.
 - E. Because he refuses to flounder his ruling, Danforth is a very stubborn character.

Directions: Determine which sentence is **A-Active** or **B-Passive**.

62. Mr. Jacobs had his land taken by Mr. Putnam.
63. The court's decision was announced in the late evening.

Inference:

64. Danforth's assertion that "a score of people" have testified to seeing Rebecca "with the Devil" highlights the fact that his desire for Proctor's written confession is primarily based upon his
- A. Desire for the complete truth to come out
 - B. Awareness of Proctor's status in the town
 - C. Strict adherence to the letter of the law
 - D. Concern that Proctor be treated the same as the others
 - E. Fear that Proctor will deny his confession later
65. Elizabeth's final statement that "He have his goodness now" refers to the fact that John
- A. Is doing the right thing
 - B. Has kept his name from disgrace
 - C. Refuses to condemn his friends
 - D. Believes in his own goodness
 - E. Knows he is going to heaven

(For #66-70) Determine the **logical fallacy** associated with each example?

- A. Ad Hominem
- B. False Causality
- C. Band Wagon
- D. Overgeneralization
- E. Appeal to Ignorance

66. Hathorne: Are you gone daft, Corey?...
Danforth: Who is this man?
Parris: Giles Corey sir, and a more contentious—
Giles: I am asked the question, and I am old enough to answer it!
67. Parris: All innocent and Christian people are happy for the courts in Salem!
68. Abigail: They want slaves, not such as I. Let them send to Barbados for that. I will not black my face for any of them! [...] Goody Proctor is a gossiping liar!"
69. "It discomfits me! Last night – mark this – I tried and tried and could not say my prayers. And then she close her book and walks out of the house, and suddenly – mark this – I could pray again!"
70. Martha: I am innocent to a witch. I know not what a witch is.
Hathorne: How do you know, then, that you are not a witch?

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Short Answer

Choose 1 of the following topics to write a thorough response. Be sure that you are answering each question (and sub-questions) and addressing why Miller has constructed his text (characters, setting, etc) to make a larger point.

1. Many characters in *The Crucible* have personal flaws that lead/contribute to tragedy. Argue whether John Proctor OR Reverend Hale is the tragic hero of the play. Discuss the character's strength(s)/noble quality (or qualities) and tragic flaw(s), how his flaw(s) lead to his downfall and/or death, and the larger message that Miller conveys through this character. Also consider discussing how the character transforms, how this change is related to the title of the play. Furthermore, consider how forces beyond his control combine with his own inner flaw(s) to cause his downfall/death.
2. Discuss the established structure of Salem and its Puritan society – its binary oppositions/social divisions into rich and poor, powerful and powerless, town insiders and outsiders, male and female, educated and illiterate, old and young, religious conservatives and religious liberals, etc. Discuss how the events of the play constitute an attempt of some segments of society to overturn the traditional ways of society, while other segments fight to maintain /strengthen the old/traditional social order. Discuss Miller's larger message as it relates to these struggles, considering the witch hunts as an allegory for the McCarthy trials, as well as social struggles in other times and places (such as modern day America). In other words, how is the play a battle among the groups or divisions mentioned above, and how might their motives and struggles mirror the motives and struggles of various societal segments in other societies besides that of Salem in the 1600s? Use specific characters to represent the social groups/divisions that you will discuss.
3. Discuss the role and treatment of women (female characters) in the play. Discuss the images of women and female archetypes that Abigail, Mary Warren, and Elizabeth portray, as well as the message that Miller conveys through these characters. Explain how the portrayal of women is used to make a larger message about society.
4. Discuss the thematic significance of the title of the play. Focus on specific characters or themes and discuss Miller's message regarding the title.