

Name _____ Period _____ Date _____

Act IV—Study Guide Questions for *The Crucible*

1. Why has Reverend Hale returned to Salem?
2. What is Reverend Hale advising the condemned to do?
3. What does Reverend Parris reveal about his niece Abigail?
4. What is the condition of Salem at this point?
5. How does Andover differ from Salem?
6. How do the proposed hangings of Rebecca Nurse and John Proctor differ from the past executions?
7. What does Reverend Parris want Danforth to do?
8. What does Reverend Hale want Danforth to do?
9. What does Reverend Hale mean when he says, "there is blood on my head!"?
10. Why does Danforth refuse to postpone the hangings?
11. What do Hale and Danforth request of Elizabeth Proctor?
12. What happened to Giles Corey?
13. What is John's excuse for confessing?
14. What is Elizabeth's proof that John is a good man?
15. How has Elizabeth changed since we first met her?
16. After John confesses, what does Danforth want him to do?
17. Discuss, "I am John Proctor! You will not use me!"

18. What does Hale attribute Proctor's willingness to hang to?

19. What does Elizabeth attribute it to?

20. How would you describe the opening of Act IV? What does Miller achieve dramatically with such an opening? (Have you encountered this kind of opening before—perhaps in Shakespeare?)

21. What has happened in Andover that has Parris so agitated?

22. What is Reverend Hale doing that brings “hope”? Why does Danforth suggest that Hale has been preaching in Andover?

23. What is the “good purpose” Parris refers to? How will “unconfessed and claiming innocence” contribute to “our good purpose [being] lost in their tears”?

24. What, in your perception, has contributed to Parris's apparent “softening” in attitude?

25. What “evidence” does Hale give of the effect of the witchcraft accusations on the town? (Do you remember any other literary sources that detail a “curse on the land”? Hint: Think of the man who was murdered on the ides of March!)

26. What “law” is Danforth referring to in his assertion: “I should hang ten thousand that dared to rise against the law, and an ocean of salt tears could not melt the resolutions of the statutes”?

27. What is the implication in Elizabeth's statement that Giles “died Christian under the law”?

28. What is it that Proctor refuses to do to help his sons “walk like men in the world”?

29. Explain what Elizabeth means as, with a “cry,” she calls out “He [Proctor] have his goodness now. God forbid I take it from him!”

30. What dramatic statement, in your perception, does Miller punctuate with his closing simile “the drums rattle like bones in the morning air”?