The Crucible Study Guide Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Act I**

1. At the beginning of Act I, why does Tituba think that Betty’s condition will be blamed on her? What literary technique is this?
2. As Rev. Parris discusses the situation with Abigail, what is his main concern?
3. Name at least two signs displayed by Betty that some interpret to mean she is bewitched.
4.
5.
6. What involvement has Ann Putnam had with Tituba? Why?
7. Explore reasons why Thomas Putnam is a “man with many grievances.” In other words, why is he so resentful towards some people?
8.
9.
10. Even though Abigail has told her uncle that only dancing occurred, what else was going on in the woods?
11. How does Abigail intimidate the other girls to maintain the story that they only danced?
12. Explain the relationships between John Proctor and Abigail. How does Elizabeth factor in to this situation?
13. Do you think that John loved/loves Abigail? Explain.
14. List reasons why some people disliked the Nurses.
15.

1.
2. What is Rebecca Nurse’s explanation for Betty’s and Ruth’s behavior?
3. What evidence is there to suggest that Rev. Parris is greedy?
4. Who is John Hale and for what reason has he been summoned to Salem?
5. Rev. Parris tells Hale what he saw in the forest in addition to dancing. What else did he see?
6. When Hale starts asking questions, how does Abigail respond to the pressure? What does she accuse Tituba of making her do? (Provide at least 2 examples.)
7.
8.
9. How do both Putnam and Hale “lead the witness” when asking questions of Tituba?
10. Why do you think Tituba confesses?
11. Why does Abigail start to accuse other townspeople of dealing with the devil at the end of the act?

**Act II**

1. Very early in Act II, how does John make attempts to please Elizabeth?
2.
3. Elizabeth insists that John go to tell the court that the witchcraft is fraud. Why does he hesitate? List the reason John gives AND the underlying reason.
4. Why does John feel judged by his wife?
5. What gift does Mary Warren present to Elizabeth? How might this surface in connection to witchcraft later? (Hint: Think about Tituba and her special “talents.”)
6. What important information does Mary give about who has been mentioned at court? What literary technique is this?
7. How does Elizabeth explain Mary’s information about what has been mentioned in court?
8. What “evidence” does Hale have, thus leading him to believe that perhaps the Proctors are not the most upstanding Christians?
9. Explain how the golden candlesticks are mentioned. Of what are they symbolic?
10. How must John prove that he is a good Christian? How does he falter? What literary device is at work?
11. A number of visitors suddenly arrive. Who has just been arrested for witchcraft? Under what charges?

a.

b.

1. When Elizabeth is charged, the poppet is found. How is it “evidence?” In other words, how does this relate to the accusations earlier in court that day?
2. When Hale will do nothing to stop Elizabeth’s arrest, John calls him a “Pontius Pilate.” What literary technique is this, and what does it mean?
3. Mary warns that if John makes her tell the truth about the fraud, what will Abigail do to John?
4. Do you think that Mary will tell the truth? Why/why not?
5. How might either John or Abigail use their affair either to their own benefit or to the other’s demise?

**Act III**

1. What evidence does Giles Corey have to prove that the girls are frauds? In other words, what are his accusations against Thomas Putnam?
2. Why won’t Judge Danforth believe what Corey is saying?
3. What has Francis Nurse brought with him to the court? What does Danforth do about it? Why does Francis become upset over the decision?
4. What does John tell Danforth his main goal in coming to court is? At this point what important information does Danforth reveal to John?
5. Explain why Parris might be so nervous about the possibility that the witchcraft accusations have all been frauds.
6. When Danforth asks Parris if indeed he witnessed the girls dancing naked in the woods, how does he respond? What is this revealing about Parris?
7. How does Parris suggest that Mary Warren prove that she was a fraud in court? How does Mary respond?
8. When attention begins to fall on Abigail, how does she try to divert it away from her? (What does she claim to see? Explain who/what it is.)
9. John calls Abby a whore. Why is this so important?
10. Explain why Elizabeth Proctor is called into the court. Why is this such a pivotal moment?
11. How do Abby and the girls continue to intimidate Mary?
12. Ultimately, how does Mary’s struggle with the truth end? Be specific and thoughtful.

**Act IV**

1. Why has Rev. Hale been visiting the prisoners? What does he hope to accomplish?
2. What information does Parris reveal about Abigail and Mercy?
3. What problems in Andover does Parris mention? How could what has been happening in Andover affect Salem?
4. What does Hale want Elizabeth to do? Why?
5. What happens to Giles Corey? What about his land?
6. John says he will confess, but then what makes him start to change his mind?
7. The genre convention of “props” is employed in this act as John signs the confession with a pen. How/why are these two items so crucial to the scene?