The Crucible Study Guide

Act One

1. Where does the opening of this act take place? In Betty Parris’ room in Salem
2. Why is Rev. Parris so worried about his reputation? Because if the town hates him, he will lose his job
3. What is wrong with Betty Parris? She is inert
4. What can we infer from this? That some sort of witchcraft is involved
5. \*What news does Susanna bring from the doctor? That he could not find any medicine for the girls in his books- he doesn’t know the cause of their illness
6. Why does Parris suggest calling in Reverend Hale? In order to prove that there are no witches in Salem
7. Why did Mrs. Putnam enlist Tituba’s help? To figure out who in Salem is causing her babies to die. Tituba will be able to summon the dead childrens’ spirits to gain this information.
8. \*Mercy says that Ruth gave what sign of getting better? Sneezing
9. Explain the importance behind the word “child” that John Proctor uses to speak to Abigail. Verbal Irony- he is trying to put Abigail in her place and show that their actions together were inappropriate, and that it is all done with now.
10. \*What does Rebecca say about Betty’s and Ruth’s sickness? Stop giving the children negative attention, and they will soon tire of behaving like this. Instead show them love.
11. \*In the character description of Hale, what interesting fact about Christianity does Miller include? Why does he say the idea of the Devil was invented? He says that Christians invented the idea of hell and they use it as a scare tactic to get people to act in a certain way.
12. \*What does Hale say the Devil wants? Why might the Devil want this? The Devil wants the best souls- there is more joy in taking a good soul than taking a soul that is already bad.
13. What does Abigail say was in the kettle? Beans, lentils, and soup
14. What “jumped in the kettle? Why is this important? A frog, this could be seen as a sacrifice
15. How do Tituba’s thoughts at the beginning of Act I come to fruition towards the end of Act I? At the beginning of the act she says that trouble always lands on her, and by the end of Act I all the girls have blamed Tituba for making them conjure spirits and she get into trouble.
16. \*What does Abigail accuse Tituba of during to her during prayer? Makes her laugh
17. When Hale asks Tituba about seeing others with the Devil- what is he doing here? What does this tell us about his character? See answer to this question on your Act I Questions
18. \*What words of comfort does Hale offer Tituba when she confesses to dealing with the Devil? She is doing the right thing, God will bless her for it, she will be okay, and if she confesses, she will be able to save Betty
19. Who does Tituba say she saw with the Devil? Goody Good and Goody Osburn (the same names Putnam gave her as options)
20. What does Mrs. Putnam make of who Tituba saw with the Devil? Goody Osburn was a midwife to Mrs. Putnam 3 times, all of these times her babies died. Because of this, Mrs. Putnam believes that Goody Osburn has cursed her and her family.