



## ACT 1

1. Where does the setting take place?
  
2. How does Parris regard children? How does the rest of Salem feel about children?
  
3. Describe the lives of those who live in Salem.
  
4. “So now they and their church found it necessary to deny any other sect its freedom, lest their New Jerusalem be defined and corrupted by wrong and deceitful ideas.” What is the irony in this statement? Explain.
  
5. Why is the Salem tragedy a paradox? (A paradox is made up of two opposite things and that seems impossible but is actually true or possible).
  
6. Explain how the witch-hunt years were a time of “general revenge.”
  
7. Why has Reverend Parris sent for a doctor as the play begins?

8. What advice does the doctor send back?
  
9. What does Paris question his niece Abigail about?
  
10. What is Parris's main concern?
  
11. What did Parris see in the woods the previous night?
  
12. Characterize Parris based on his statement: "Now tell me true Abigail. And I pray you feel the weight of truth upon you, for now my ministry's at stake, my ministry and perhaps your cousin's life"
  
13. Identify the significance of color:  
    White:  
  
    Blush:
  
14. Why does Elizabeth Proctor only rarely come to church these days?

15. Abigail describes Elizabeth Proctor as “a lying, cold, shivering woman.” What’s ironic about this?
16. What rumors have circulated the town about Betty Paris? What proof later occurs that “proves” that she is a witch?
17. Ann Putnam says that her daughter, Ruth, has been acting strange this year. Describe Ruth’s behaviors. What is a different, more likely explanation for Ruth’s behavior?
18. Describe Thomas Putnam. What is his involvement in the Witch Trials?
19. Why does Mrs. Putnam believe the girls have been bewitched?
20. Why did Mrs. Putnam contact Tituba?
21. What do we find out about what really happened in the woods?

22. What does Abigail threaten to do to the girls if they tell about the casting of spells in the woods? Why is Abigail so dark?

23. Describe Proctor.

24. What happened in the past between John Proctor and Abigail? How do each of them feel about it now?

25. Rebecca Nurse is able to quickly calm Betty when others could not comfort the girl. What does this say about Rebecca (Negative and positive)? Explain them both.

26. Explain Francis and Rebecca Nurse.

27. What does Rebecca know about raising children? What is Rebecca's explanation for the girls' behavior?

28. How does John Proctor feel about Reverend Parris?
29. What reason does John Proctor give for his reluctance to regularly attend church? What is another likely reason he hasn't been attending?
30. Why does Mrs. Putnam despise Rebecca, an elderly woman noted for her moral character?
31. "There are wheels within wheels in this village and fires within fires"  
Explain.
32. What does the bickering between the characters foreshadow?
33. Why is Reverend Hale in Salem?

34. What type of irony is being exhibited regarding Mrs. Putnam's confession of what she had her daughter Ruth to do in the forest? Explain.
35. Explain Giles Corey.
36. What does Giles Corey reveal to Reverend Hale?
37. When Abigail is questioned by Reverend Hale, who does she blame? What proof does she offer?
38. After Abigail accuses Tituba of dealing with the Devil, what factors do you believe play a part in her confessing?
39. Who does Tituba accuse of being a witch? Why, do you suppose, Tituba listed these names?

## 40. What do the girls do at the end of Act One?

Find five quotes that you feel are significant whether it be because they support the theme or because they jumped out at you. Explain why you chose this quote.

Character Page.	Quote	Significance/Explanation