***The Crucible*** Study Questions

Act I

1. What is the setting of the play? (time and place)
2. Make a list of at least five words that describe Reverend Parris.
3. How did the village’s residents regard the forest and its Indian inhabitants?
4. From what paradox did the Salem tragedy develop?
5. Miller wrote that we, too, “Shall be pitied someday.” What do you think he meant? Give some examples of why people who look back on us from the year 2400 will pity us.
6. What behaviors of Betty Parris and Ruth Putnam made some feel they were possessed by witches?
7. What did Reverend Parris see in the woods?
8. Why was Abigail discharged from service at the Proctor household?
9. How do the Putnams feel about the possibility of witchcraft in Salem?
10. Why is Thomas Putnam a bitter man?
11. What is Mary Warren’s greatest fear?
12. When Betty “wakes up,” what does she reveal about Abigail?
13. Who is in control of the group of girls?
14. Describe John Proctor. How does Abigail react to him? What does he tell her?
15. What does Rebecca Nurse believe is afflicting Betty?
16. Why do some people resent Francis and Rebecca Nurse?
17. Which of the characters are openly critical of Paris?
18. What does Parris accuse John Proctor of doing? What does Thomas Putnam accuse Proctor of doing?
19. Describe Reverend John Hale.
20. What confession does Mrs. Putnam make to Hale?
21. What special purpose does Giles Corey serve in the play?
22. Why does Tituba confess?
23. How does Reverend Hale make Tituba feel important?
24. Who does Tituba say are also witches?
25. How do Abigail and Betty take advantage of what is happening to make sure they will not be blamed for dancing in the forest?