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The crucible act one reading guide

When and where is the game set? Salem, Massachusetts, 1692 What does Abigail confess to Reverend Parris? that they were dancing What's wrong with Betty Parris? Won't he wake up who Abigail works for? Whose niece is it? Abigail worked for John Proctor's family; For the last seven months, he hasn't worked anywhere. She's Reverend Parris' niece. Who does Mercy Lewis work for? Who does Mary Warren work for? Do Proctors feel Reverend Parris' parishioners about him? Most fear him because ministers hold such power, so he tries to stay on his good side. What is John Proctor's attitude towards Parris? He thinks he's greedy. They danced, sang and played in the preparation of charms. Abigail drank chicken blood. So far, which people feel that witchcraft exists and which does not? Reverend Parris, Putnam does; Corey Giles questions why is the wife reading so much and wondering what she is reading. Rebecca Nurse and John Proctor don't believe in it and Rev. Hale doesn't know what to believe, yet. What does it mean when Betty can't stand to hear God's name? For those who believe in witchcraft, it means that she is possessed by the devil and therefore she cannot bear to hear the name of the Lord. In reality, she probably feels guilty about her actions and her shame of disobeying the principles of her religion is exacerbated when she hears His name. Who is John Hale? Why did he come to the Parris house? He is a minister of Beverly, Massachusetts and is widely educated about witchcraft and the unknown world. He came to see if witchcraft was practiced in Salem. What is the conflict between Putnam and Proctor about? Basically, John Proctor doesn't like Thomas Putnam. Proctor feels that Putnam is hungry for the earth and confesses that the surface of his neighbors is his when he isn't. Proctor also believes That Putnam believes that the Putnam family's name should be revered and that man uses it to gain power. What does Mrs Putnam think caused the deaths of her seven children? He thinks they were killed by the devil by his descendants in Salem. What are Parris' feelings about his congregation? He fears his rejection of him judges those who do not follow their religion exactly the way he preaches. Why does Tituba and the girls shout names at the end of this act? What does Tituba confess and why? fear that the truth will come out Why did Mrs Putnam send her daughter, Ruth, to see Tituba? to ask what happened to her children why would the Devil want Reverend Parris' daughter? He wants to show that he has power over God's people on earth. What does Giles Corey say bothers him about his wife? is corey described? He's upset that his wife reads so much and doesn't want to tell her the names of the books. According to Miller, what caused the witch hunt? describes the witch hunt? He feels that a number of reasons are behind witch hunts, but that, essentially, people fear what they Understand. This makes them unsure about their own beliefs or places in society, so they are quick to condemn peoples' thoughts or actions. Also, many people are suspicious of their neighbors if the latter do not believe and act like them. Also, some people, such as Putnam and Parris (and Senator Joseph McCarthy) are power-hungry. Miller describes both Salem and McCarthy witch hunt as periods of terror and persecution. At the beginning of the play, Rev. Parris is very concerned about his enemies, who he fears will use Betty's mysterious illness against him. What does this show us about Parris? Would you say he's a good father? Testify to support your answer. He's not a good father, because he cares more about his reputation than his daughter. Why does Elizabeth Proctor rarely come to church these days? She doesn't want to go to church because Abigail goes to church. Abigail had an affair with John Proctor. When Abigail recounts her version of what

happened in the woods, what gives credibility to her story? Parris believes her? Why is she interested if her name is entirely white in the village? He says Tituba sang songs in Barbados, which he does. However, Parris doesn't believe her. Parris is interested because he doesn't want his reputation ruined. Abigail describes Elizabeth Proctor as a cold, lying woman. What's ironic about that? It's ironic because Abigail had an affair and she's lying to everyone. Ann Putnam says her daughter, Ruth, has been acting weird this year. Describe Ruth's behavior. Ann Putnam says this is proof that dark forces are pulling their child, whose age we are not told, but who is probably about 10 years old. What is a different explanation, most likely for Ruth's behaviors? Ruth kept things to herself and hid things. Puberty is a likely explanation. When a biblical psalm is sung, Betty Parris cries. Ann Putnam concludes that this shows the child has been touched by the devil. Explain why this is a logical error. What's the real case of Betty's complaint? This is a logical error because Ann claims that the psalm led to Betty wailing, who does not have enough evidence behind her. The real case may be because Abigail and John Proctor talk about their affair and Betty doesn't want to hear it. Describe Mercy Lewis. Describe Mary Warren. What does Abigail threaten to do to the girls if she tells them about casting spells in the woods? Why is Abigail so dark? Mercy is a servant to Putnams; she is bad news. Mary is a servant to Proctors; she is shy and polite. Abigail threatens to stab them. It's dark because he saw his parents killed by Native Americans. Rebecca Nurse is able to quickly calm Betty when others couldn't comfort the girl. There are two different ways (one good, one not) to view the strength of the nurse here. Explain them Both. Good: She Can Prevent Betty From Killing Herself. Bad: She Can Be Perceived As a Witch. How Many and the grandchildren Rebecca Nurse has? How many does Ann Putnam have? Explain how the people of Salem might see this as the hand of God working in the lives of the two women. Rebecca: 11 children 26 grandchildren. Ann: 1. This is a blessing from God because children can grow up to take care of their parents when they get older. What reason does John Proctor give for his reluctance to regularly go to church? What's another reason he probably wasn't attending? He doesn't like that Reverend Parris always talks about hell and Satan. Probably he doesn't go either because he had an affair with Abigail. Ms. Putnam says there are wheels inside the wheels in this village, and fires inside fires! Explain to me what he means. She says that under the surface, a lot of things happen in the village. In his opening remarks, does Hale establish his authority? He carries a lot of books and says they are weighted with authority. Explain Tituba is in a winless situation. Is Tituba defending himself? She has no right because she is a slave, so if she confesses to making the charm she will be accused of witchcraft, but if she does not confess to making the charm she will be whipped. However, since she confessed to being a witch and called out random names, she is safe. Why, do you think, Tituba gives the name of Sarah Good and Goody Osborne? What does this movement show us about Tituba? She knew that Goody Osborne was a midwife of Ann Putnam (who believes Osborne killed her children) and that Sarah Good has a low status, so it was safer for her to charge them. This shows that Tituba is smart. Does Hale contribute to the emotional fever at the end of the act, when girls begin to name individuals who have been seen with the Devil? He says God will bless them if they confess. The play takes place in Salem, Massachusetts, 1692; government is a theocracy—the reign of God through religious officials. Hard work and the church consumes most of the time of a Salem resident. Within the community, there are disputes on the ground. Issues of limits and facts are a source of constant, bitter disagreements. As the play opens, Reverend Parris kneels in prayer in front of his daughter's bed. Ten-year-old Betty Parris is in a state of no hurry, no response. Parris is a gloomy, severe man who suffers from paranoia. He believes that members of his congregation should not lift a finger during religious services without his permission. Rumor that Betty is the victim of witchcraft is taking place in Salem, and a crowd has gathered in Parris's salon. Parris sent for Reverend John Hale of Beverly, a witchcraft expert, to determine if Betty is indeed bewitched. Parris mourns his niece, Abigail Williams, for discovering her, Betty, and several other girls dancing in the woods in the middle of the night with the slave Tituba. Tituba was in the middle of unintelligible words and waving her arms over a fire, and Parris thought he saw someone naked among the trees. Abigail denies that she and the girls engaged in witchcraft. She states that Betty simply fainted from the shock when her father caught them dancing. Parris fears that his enemies will use the scandal to remove him from ministerial office. He asks Abigail if her name and reputation are truly indisputable. Elizabeth Proctor, a local woman who hired Abigail at her home but later fired her, stopped going to church on a regular basis. There are rumors that Elizabeth doesn't want to stay so close to a dirty woman. Abigail denies any wrongdoing and states that Elizabeth hates her because she would not work as a slave. Parris asks why no other family has hired Abigail if Elizabeth is a liar. Abigail is disclaiming that Parris is only concerned about her status as an employee because she's failing maintenance. Thomas Putnam and his wife enter the room. Putnam holds one of the song's many grudges. His brother-in-law was a candidate for the Salem ministry, but a small faction thwarted his relative's aspirations. Ms. Putnam reports that their daughter, Ruth, is as apathetic as Betty, and claims that someone saw Betty flying over a neighbor's barn. Ms. Putnam had seven children who each died one day after birth. Convinced that someone had used witchcraft to kill them, she sent Ruth to Tituba to contact the spirits of her dead children to discover the identity of the killer. Parris rebukes Abigail again and states that she and the girls were indeed practicing witchcraft. Putnam urges Parris to leave his enemies and immediately announce that he has discovered witchcraft. Mercy Lewis, Putnam's servant, comes and reports that Ruth looks better. Parris agrees to meet with the crowd and lead them into a prayer, but he refuses to mention witchcraft until he receives the opinion of Reverend Hale. Once alone, Abigail updates Mercy on the current situation. Mary Warren, the Proctors' maid, enters the room in a state of anxiety. She fears that all will be labeled witches before long. Betty suddenly stands up and cries for her mother, but her mother is dead and buried. Abigail tells the girls that she told Parris all about their activities in the woods, but Betty complains that Abigail didn't tell Parris about the blood consumption as a charm to kill Elizabeth Proctor, John Proctor's wife. Abigail hits Betty in the face and warns the other girls to confess only that they danced and that Tituba summoned Ruth's dead sisters. He's threatening to kill them if I say anything about the other things they've done. It shakes Betty, but Betty returned to her still, unresponsive state. State.

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