Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ English 11 – *The Crucible*

**Act I**

**The overture (pages 3-8)**

1. Characterize Parris as described in the opening.
2. Describe their lifestyle.
3. What was the view of the wilderness?
4. What was Puritans’ view of individual freedoms vs. the greater good of society? (pg. 7)

**Act 1 begins…**

1. Why is Reverend Parris so concerned that there “be no talk about unnatural cause”? (pg. 9-11)
2. How does Abigail explain her dismissal from the Proctors’ household? (pg. 12)
3. How many girls were in the woods on the night in question? List their names and describe the girls who have been identified in Act I as being out in the woods.
4. What do we learn about Thomas Putnam? (pg. 14-16)
5. Does the fact that Ann Putnam gave birth to seven babies who died soon after childbirth make her a sympathetic character? Does her desire to call in Reverend Hale to rid Salem of its witches change your opinion? What might be her motivation?
6. Why does Samuel Parris send for Reverend John Hale?
7. Describe the mood between John Proctor and Abigail when they speak privately (pg. 22-25).
8. Do you think Proctor is still physically attracted to Abigail? How might this attraction make his guilt even harder to bear?
9. Characterize Mary Warren. How might these traits be relevant as the hysteria increases? (pgs. 19-21)
10. What do we learn about Rebecca and Francis Nurse? What makes them targets? (pg. 26-27)
11. Why do Rebecca Nurse and John Proctor discourage an investigation into witchcraft? Why do Putnam and his wife encourage it?
12. Describe the conflict between Proctor and Putnam. What complaints do they have with each other? (pg. 29-32)
13. Read pages 34-38 and characterize Reverend Hale.
14. Why does Tituba “admit” to witchcraft?
15. What do you think is motivating Abigail in each of the following situations? What patterns do you see emerging in her behavior?
    1. Her actions in the woods-
    2. Her conversation with Mercy Lewis and Mary Warren-
    3. Her conversation with John Proctor-
    4. The accusations she makes at the end of the act –
16. What evidence do we see that John Proctor is a good man despite his sinful act?
17. Throughout this act, Miller includes information about several disputes over land, lawsuits, and job appointments that have torn Salem apart. Do you think that this new crisis of suspected witchcraft is more likely to pull the community together or cause future conflicts? Why?