

## Hysterically and With Great Relief

Questions on Part Three of Act One of *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller ANSWER KEY

## 1. How does Miller characterize Reverend Hale?

He says that Hale feels like "a young doctor on his first call," and "he feels himself allied with the best minds of Europe... His goal is light, goodness, and its preservation" and he is ready for "a bloody fight with the Fiend himself." In other words, he sees himself as ready, willing, and able to do battle with evil and make the world a better place.

## 2. Why does Hale say that he recognizes Rebecca even though they have never met?

He says, "I suppose you look as such a good soul should. We have all heard of your great charities in Beverly." Her reputation as someone who does good things has preceded her, and he believes that her goodness shows on the outside.

## 3. How does Proctor show that he is suspicious of those who believe in witchcraft?

He says to Hale that he has heard that he is sensible and that he hopes that he'll "leave some of it to Salem." In other words, he suggests that sensible people don't believe in witchcraft, and he feels that sense is lacking in his village.

## 4. How does Hale establish his authority?

He asks questions of everyone in the room, gathering evidence to help him figure out the causes of the illness. He acts confident that he will find answers and defeat evil saying "I have no fear now—we shall find him out if he has come among us, and I mean to crush him utterly if he has shown his face!"

## 5. How does Rebecca show that she doesn't approve of what's going on?

She says, "I think I'll go, then. I'm too old for this" after Hale talks about ripping flesh from the devil's grip.

## 6. Why is Giles suspicious of his wife?

He is suspicious because she reads books and she is a woman.

## 7. What does this tell you about the kind of woman that might have been accused of witchcraft?

This suggests that women who are educated or powerful in any way might have been accused of witchcraft, especially by those who were too ignorant to understand why they were doing.

## 8. Why does Hale say that the devil has chosen Betty?

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# The Crucible Study Questions And Answers Act 1

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Further Study Study Questions Discuss the role that grudges and personal rivalries play in the witch trial hysteria. The trials in The Crucible take place against the backdrop of a deeply religious and superstitious society, and most of the characters in the play seem to believe that rooting out witches from their community is God's work.

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The Crucible has a hard-hitting moral of the story. What is it? Do you think this moral is still applicable in today's world? What sort of modern-day witch-hunts are you aware of? How are they similar to the Salem witch-hunts? How are they different? Why do you think humans are so prone to go on witch-hunts?

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