

ACT 3 Questions

DUE: Monday, August 2

Jake NOTE: I am so sorry I can't be here – believe me I wanted to be (and tried, unsuccessfully) – please either read through the play as a group, or watch an online version, and **try to work together – help each other out.** There are only 6 questions again (and some extensions) – each question has been carefully chosen – you can answer it in a few sentences, **or** you could write a whole paragraph.

I will try to be here tomorrow but can't promise anything (really not feeling well today) – if not – finish these 6 questions by next Monday. **Next Monday we will do a BIG recap – go back through Acts 1,2,3** and try to make it familiar for anyone who is struggling with it – and then aim to 'wrap up' the Study by next Wednesday, **and start Year of Wonders next Thursday.** Don't worry – we will come back to it in Weeks 7 and 8 when we compare both of the texts in more depth.

Comprehension Questions (we can talk through these as we go)

- What happens when people seem to criticise the court's proceedings?
- What news do we learn about Rebecca Nurse?
- Why do Giles and Francis want to talk to Danforth?
- What two pieces of evidence are brought out against Proctor in regard to his Christian nature?
- What news does Danforth tell John Proctor about Elizabeth? What deal does he try to make with him?
- What paper did 91 people sign? What is going to happen to them?
- "...a person is either with this court or he must be counted against it, there be no road between." Explain the importance of Danforth's statement.
- What is Giles Corey's proof that Thomas Putnam is "reaching out for land." Why won't he reveal his source?
- What happens to Giles Corey?
- What is Reverend Hale's advice as John Proctor is about to read his disposition before the court, regarding Mary Warren?
- Hawthorne thinks of a test for Mary. What is it? Can she do it? Why or why not?
- How does Abigail respond when she is asked whether she pretended to faint in church? Why?
- Proctor calls Abigail a whore, and he confesses his lechery. Why does he do that?
- Who is called to back up John's testimony? What happens?
- What do the girls do to Mary? What is her response?
- Why does Mary Warren reverse her position?
- What do you think John Proctor means when he says, "God is dead!"?
- What does Hale do when Proctor is arrested?
- Compare Reverend Hale now to how he was at the beginning of the play. Explain how he has changed?
- Explain Reverend Parris's motivation throughout this act.

Classwork / Homework questions:

1. Why is Reverend Parris so opposed to Danforth hearing Mary Warren's deposition?

Extension 1: How does Judge Hathorne's questioning of Martha Corey contrast with the duties and responsibilities of **democratic** court procedures (as opposed to this **theocratic** system)?

2. Why does Judge Hathorne want Giles Corey charged with contempt?
3. What do Judge Hathorne, Reverend Parris, and Thomas Putnam gain from the community's acceptance of the witch trials?

Extension 2: How does an emphasis on judging people on what they do, not who they are, support the concept of "guilt by suspicion" prevalent in *The Crucible*

4. In Act 3, how does Abigail Williams combine manipulation and the power of persuasion to realise her ambitions?
5. Compare the responses of Danforth, Hathorne and Parris. Who do you see as the greater villain? *Why?*
6. How does Elizabeth Proctor's attempt to save her husband's reputation after questioning his fidelity at their home, backfire?

Extension 3: What does Proctor mean when he tells Danforth 'God damns our kind especially ... we will burn together' ? *Could be a few different answers to this one – just write down one interpretation, and we will share our responses to come to the full picture.*

Additional homework questions: *please write them out in hand below*

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Notes: *transcribe any important notes from our study today*

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