

The Crucible: Act One Questions

1. What is wrong with Betty Parris? How does Tituba react to Betty's condition?
2. What news does Susanna bring from the doctor?
3. What rumor is circulating about Betty?
4. How does Abigail initially defend the girls' behavior in the woods?
5. Why is Reverend Parris so worried about his reputation?
6. What did Parris see in the woods?
7. What does Abigail claim is the reason she was discharged from the Proctor household?
8. In what condition is Ruth Putnam?
9. Why did Mrs. Putnam enlist Tituba's help?
10. Why did Abigail drink blood?
11. How does Abigail threaten the other girls?
12. What happens when John and Abigail are left alone?
13. What does Rebecca Nurse say about Betty and Ruth's sickness?
14. Why is Reverend Parris dissatisfied with his job in Salem?
15. About what are Proctor and Putnam fighting?
16. Describe Reverend Hale. For what reason has he been called to Salem?
17. What is Giles Corey's complaint about his wife?

18. Why does Tituba finally “confess”? What do you think of her actions? What do you think will happen as a result?

19. What do the girls do at the end of Act One? What type of people are the accused?

Find and quote textual evidence to support the following statements. Indicate the page number in parentheses, and briefly explain who is speaking to whom and the situation. You may quote dialogue or stage directions. Your quote can be dialogue from another character.

1. Abigail is arrogant and believes she is better than others.

Abigail speaks to Parris about her dismissal from the Proctors' service, and she tells him "They want slaves, not such as I. Let them send to Barbados for that. I will not black my face for any of them!" (1240).

2. Elizabeth Proctor has made negative comments about Abigail to other townspeople.

Parris tells Abigail, "I have heard it said ... that [Elizabeth] comes so rarely to the church this year for she will not sit so close to something soiled" (1239). "Something soiled" is how Elizabeth referred to Abigail.

3. Parris is more concerned with himself and his own reputation than with Betty's "sickness."

4. Parris has heard rumors in the town regarding Abigail's reputation.

5. Proctor is determined to end the relationship with Abigail.

6. Ann Putnam is jealous of Rebecca Nurse's large family.

7. Tituba's confession is a lie.