

Summer reading assignments

English 10 Honors

Mr. Falkenstein

The Crucible by Arthur Miller

Directions: Read *The Crucible* and answer all of the questions on the attached study guides. Bring the completed work to school in August (even if the class is scheduled to begin in January) and be prepared to write an in-class essay on the play during the first week of the course.

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Directions: Read *To Kill a Mockingbird* and take brief notes on each chapter in the copy book I gave you. Bring the completed reading log to school in August (even if the class is scheduled to begin in January) and be prepared to write an in-class essay on the novel during the first marking period of the course.

Note: Don't get bogged down by writing every detail in your notes. The purpose of the assignments is to help you recall the details for the class discussions and assessments. Your notes will not be graded but they are required.

The Crucible, Act I

1. What is the setting of the play?
2. Make a list of at least five words that describe Reverend Parris.
3. What did Reverend Parris see in the woods?
4. Why was Abigail discharged from service at the Proctor household?
5. How do the Putnams feel about the possibility of witchcraft in Salem?
6. Why is Thomas Putnam a bitter man?
7. What is Mary Warren's greatest fear?
8. When Betty "wakes up," what does she reveal about Abigail?
9. Describe John Proctor. How does Abigail react to him? What does he tell her?

10. What does Rebecca Nurse believe is afflicting Betty? What caution does she offer?

11. Describe Reverend John Hale.

12. Why does Tituba confess?

Act II

13. From the beginning of Act II, what can you tell about the relationship between John and Elizabeth Proctor?

14. How do we learn what is happening in the town?

15. What does John say keeps him from telling the court what he knows? What do you think might be the real reason?

16. What does "The promise that a stallion gives a mare I gave that girl!" mean?

17. When Rev. Hale visits, what things seem to go against John and Elizabeth?

18. What important information does John tell Rev. Hale?

19. What are the Proctors' feelings regarding the existence of withes in general?

20. With what crime has Rebecca Nurse been charged? Why is this a kind of “final proof” that the town has gone mad?

21. What proof has been offered of Martha Corey’s witchcraft?

22. What connection is there between the poppet given to Elizabeth by Mary Warren and her arrest? Do you think Mary Warren knew what would happen and was part of it, or was she “conned” by Abigail?

23. Explain the following:

“Is the accuser always holy now?”

“I’ll tell you walking Salem—vengeance is walking Salem.”

“We are only what we always were, but naked now.”

24. What demand does Proctor make of Mary Warren?

Act III

25. What evidence of Martha Corey’s witchcraft is the court considering?

26. According to Giles Corey, what is Thomas Putnam’s purpose in prompting the witch trials?

27. From his actions and statements, what can you conclude about Judge Danforth? What do you think makes him so unwilling to consider that the girls could be pretending?

28. Who are Proctors' allies in his attempts to expose the girls? Who is his enemy? Who apologizes but hurts Proctor's credibility?

29. What "extravagance" does Danforth believe Proctor guilty of?

30. What bargain does Danforth attempt to strike with Proctor, just to make him go away? What makes Proctor want to continue with his attempt to prove the girls are lying?

31. What document does Danforth at first refuse to even look at? What other piece of documentation does he consider, and then make the men wish they had not given him?

32. What finally prompts Proctor to report his affair with Abigail?

33. How difficult do you think it was for Elizabeth to tell the lie about John's lechery? What dramatic technique is Miller using?

34. What finally completely destroys Proctor's efforts to save his wife?

35. What is Hale's reaction to the events of Act III?

36. What prompts Proctor to proclaim, "I sayGod is Dead!"

Act IV

37. How much time elapses between the end of Act III and Act IV?

38. Why do Sarah Good and Tituba talk about the devil so openly?

39. Why is Reverend Hale at the jail?

40. What request does Parris make of Danforth? Would you say that this is because he is disturbed by the deaths of so many citizens?

41. What has happened to Abigail? What is Parris's chief concern?

42. Why is Parris anxious to postpone the death of Rebecca Nurse and John Proctor?

43. What does Danforth give as his reason for not being able to pardon those who refuse to confess?

44. Why is Elizabeth brought to see John?

45. What does Hale mean when he says to Elizabeth, “cleave to no faith when faith brings blood”? What other reason does he give for its being better for John to confess? Be specific.

46. What happened to Giles Corey? What was his purpose?

47. What is Elizabeth’s advice? What apology does she make?

48. Why do you think John Proctor made the decision he did? Do you think he made the right decision?