Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Block: \_\_\_\_\_\_

**English 3** – *The Crucible*

Focus Questions

**Directions:** There are 13 questions broken up by act. You are to answer the questions on your own paper. Answer the questions FULLY by using the “answer plans.” I will not grade questions which you have not fully answered or are not answered in complete sentences. The questions for each act will be due the class after we finish reading the Act in class. For example, if we finish Act I on a Monday, then the questions for Act I will be due on Wednesday.

**Act One Questions**

**1. Describe Reverend Parris and his motives and motivations in Act One. What is he like, and more**

**importantly, why do you think he is like that?**

Answer Plan:

1. Summarize what you have learned about Reverend Parris so far using direct quotes from the text to support your answer.
2. Explain what you think motivates Reverend Parris based on what you know of him.
3. Conclude by giving your opinion of Reverend Parris.

**2. Abigail Williams. What a character!**

Answer Plan:

1. Summarize what you have learned about Abigail Williams. Use specific examples from the text to support your answer.
2. Based on what you know about Abigail Williams, why do you think she acts the way she does? Specifically, what motivates her?
3. Conclude by giving your opinion of Abigail Williams.

**3. Explain John Proctor’s vision of himself. How does society see him? How does he see himself? How do**

**these two versions differ from each other?**

Answer Plan:

1. What have you learned about John Proctor? Use specific examples from the text to support your answer.
2. How do the villagers of Salem view him? Support your answer with quotes from the text.
3. What beliefs does he have, and what has shaped those beliefs?
4. Conclude with a personal observation about how self-image affects one’s life.

**4. Describe Reverend John Hale’s background, beliefs, and purpose.**

Answer Plan:

1. Summarize what you have learned about Reverend Hale.

2. What does Hale believe his purpose is as both a reverend and in Salem?

3. Conclude by giving your opinion of John Hale.

**5. Why did Tituba, Abigail, and Betty confess?**

Answer Plan:

1. Compose several sentences summarizing what we have learned about Tituba.

2. Compose several sentences explaining what leads up to the confessions.

3. Compose several sentences explaining why Titbua confessed.

4. Compose several sentences explaining why Abigail and Betty confessed.

5. Conclude by predicting how these confessions will affect the next act.

**Act Two Questions**

**7. Why is John Proctor hesitant to testify in court about Abigail’s lies?**

Answer Plan:

1. Write several reasons why Proctor is hesitant to testify in court. Use examples from the text as

support.

2. Conclude with predicting whether or not you think Proctor’s testimony would be believed

should he testify in court.

**Act Three Questions**

**8. Why does Francis Nurse fear he has brought trouble to the 91 people who signed their names to the**

**document presented in court?**

Answer Plan:

1. Based on previous events of the play, write several sentences that predict possible

consequences that may come to these people.

2. Conclude with a personal observation of the way that witnesses have been handled so far in the

play.

**9. Discuss Mary’s inability to faint on demand for the members of the court.**

Answer Plan:

1. Introduce your answer by predicting why you think Mary could not faint.

2. Support your prediction with examples from the text.

3. Conclude by predicting the possible consequences of her inability to prove she was simply

pretending.

**10. Why did John Proctor disclose his affair with Abigail?**

Answer Plan:

1. Restate the question.

2. Write a number of sentences that detail what John hoped to achieve by disclosing the affair.

3. Conclude by giving your opinion of his decision.

**Act Four Questions**

**11. Hawthorne indicates that Parris is overreacting to the scheduled hanging of Rebecca and Proctor**

**because “at every execution [he has] seen naught but high satisfaction in the town.” What would happen to a townsperson who protested the hangings or appeared dissatisfied in any way with the court’s proceedings and decisions?**

Answer Plan:

1. Introduce the answer by restating the question.

2. Provide examples of the result of challenging the authorities. As often as possible, use the text

to support your claim.

3. Conclude by predicting what you think will happen.

**12. Both Parris and Hale ask Danforth to postpone the executions, but their reasons for wanting a**

**postponement are vastly different. What motivates each one?**

Answer Plan:

1. Assert Parris’s reasons for wishing the executions postponed using direct quotes from the text.

2. What is Hale’s motivation for wishing the executions to be postponed? Use direct quotes from

the text to support your claims.

3. Conclude with a prediction about whether Danforth will oblige either one.

**13. Is *The Crucible* still relevant today? (Persuasive ESSAY)**

Answer Plan:

1. This is a persuasive prompt. Please choose a position and follow the persuasive outline.

2. Provide details or examples from the text that either support the play’s relevance to today

or deny the play’s relevance to today.

3. You must address the opposition and refute the opposition.

4. For your conclusion, compare the events in the play to a twentieth or twenty-first century

crucible.