

Name: _____

PERIOD: 1 2 3 6 7

The Crucible: Act 2 Reading Guide (Ausley – WEB HANDOUT)

1. What is the place setting of Act 2?
2. What has Elizabeth Proctor cooked for supper?
3. Examine John Proctor's statement: "It's winter in here yet." Explain the possible double meaning his statement might carry.
4. Why does Elizabeth want John to go to Salem?
5. Why does John hesitate?
6. What has John been less than absolutely truthful with Elizabeth about?
7. Where has Mary Warren been?
8. What has she brought Elizabeth?
9. Mary Warren in tears announces that Goody Osborn is to hang. She adds that Sara Good will not. Why will Sarah Good not hang?
10. When Sarah Good begged for bread and cider and Mary Warren turned her away, Mary claims Sarah Good mumbled something and for two days Mary thought her "guts would burst." What does Sarah Good claim she had mumbled?
11. What does Mary (and, according to Mary, the judges) claim to be proof that Sarah Good had lied?
12. How does Mary Warren claim to have saved Elizabeth's life?
13. Who wants Elizabeth dead? Why?
14. What does Elizabeth mean when she says, "There is a promise made in any bed"?
15. What kind of promise does John Proctor claim is the only kind he gave Abigail?
16. Rev. Hale arrives and begins to question the Proctors, first about Proctor's failure to attend church as much as he should. What do golden candlesticks have to do with why he has been absent?
17. Why has Proctor's third son not been baptized?
18. When Hale asks Proctor to recite the Ten Commandments, which one can Proctor not remember? Why is his omission ironic?

19. At Elizabeth's urging, Proctor tells Hale that Abigail had told him the children's sickness had nothing to do with witchcraft. Why does Hale have trouble accepting that witchcraft is not involved?
20. Hale questions the Proctors about whether they believe that witches exist. How do they respond?
21. Giles Corey and Francis Nurse arrive with news that their wives have been arrested. What specifically is Rebecca Nurse charged with? (Not just witchcraft)
22. Explain: "Man, remember, until an hour before the Devil fell, God thought him beautiful in Heaven."
23. What is Martha Corey charged with?
24. Describe Ezekiel Cheever.
25. A warrant has been issued for Elizabeth Proctor's arrest. How many others have been issued?
26. Who has charged Elizabeth Proctor?
27. The arresting officer asks John Proctor to produce any _____ his wife may have in the house.
28. What is the basis of the charge against Elizabeth Proctor?
29. What does Mary Warren have to say which would seem to clear Elizabeth of the charge made against her?
30. Explain the following: "She must be ripped out of the world."
31. What does John Proctor do with the warrant for Elizabeth's arrest?
32. Who, according to Proctor, are "jangling the keys of the kingdom"?
What writes the law?
33. Who does Proctor call Pontius Pilate? Explain the allusion; i.e., who was Pontius Pilate?
34. Elizabeth agrees to submit to being arrested and is put in a wagon. What does Proctor protest against? (He says, "Damn you, man, you will not __ herI will not have her __.")
35. Explain the following: "We are what we always were, but naked now. Aye, naked! And the wind, God's icy wind, will blow!"