

ACT III OF THE CRUCIBLE BY ARTHUR MILLER (Pages 863-876)

QUESTIONS

1. What is the setting of Act Three?
2. What is the significance of the behind the scenes discussion between Hathorne, Danforth, Martha Corey, and Giles Corey?
3. How do Proctor, Francis, and Giles plan to use Mary Warren's testimony to prove that "Heaven is NOT speaking through the children"?
4. What is the significance of Proctor plowing on Sunday?
5. How do Danforth and Hathorne attempt to get Proctor to drop the charge that Mary Warren has lied? Why do they want him to do so? Why does Proctor refuse?
6. Why are Proctor, Francis, and Giles repeatedly accused of attacking the court?
7. Why is Putnam brought into the court?
8. Why is Giles accused of contempt of court?
9. What is the significance of the point made by Danforth that "no uncorrupted man may fear this court"? Is this true? How does this point tie the court and the church together?
10. Why does Hale suggest that Proctor should have a lawyer? What does this tell us about Hale's feelings about the justice of the trial? Is this a change in his attitude? Why does Danforth refuse?
11. What is contained in Mary Warren's depositions? Why are the other children who have cried out brought in?
12. How does Danforth equate the court with the church?
13. What does Abigail say about Mary's testimony? Why does she lie?
14. What role does Parris play during the testimony? Why does he lie about the dancing in the woods?
15. What point does Hathorne make about Mary fainting? Why can't she faint on command?
16. How does Danforth confuse Mary Warren?
17. What does Abigail do to befuddle Mary?
18. What secret does Proctor reveal about himself and Abigail? Why does he reveal it?
19. Why does Elizabeth deny John's relationship with Abigail? What is the result of her denial?
20. What evidence is there that Hale no longer believes the testimony and crying out of the girls? What do the girls do to convince the men otherwise? Why? How does their action further befuddle Mary? What does Mary do?

QUOTATIONS (Cite page numbers as you locate these quotations.)

- A. "And do you know that near to four hundred are in the jails from Marblehead to Lynn, and upon my signature?" (Danforth, p. _____)
- B. "Do you know, Mr. Proctor, that the entire contention of the state in these trials is that the voice of Heaven is speaking through the children?" (Danforth, p. _____)
- C. "I think not, or you should surely know that Cain were an upright man, and yet he did kill Abel." (Parris to Proctor about his reading the Gospel, p. _____)
- D. "He's come to overthrow this court, Your Honor!" (Parris about Proctor, p. _____)
- E. "A person is either with this court or he must be counted against it, there be no road between." (Danforth, p. _____)
- F. "We cannot blink it more. There is a prodigious fear of this court in the country." (Hale, p. _____)
- G. "Then there is a prodigious guilt in the country...there is fear in the country because there is a moving plot to topple Christ in the country!" (Danforth, p. _____)
- H. "Mr. Hale, you surely do not doubt my justice." (Danforth, p. _____)
- I. "Now, children, this is a court of law. The law, based upon the Bible, and the Bible, writ by Almighty God, forbid the practice of witchcraft, and describe death as the penalty thereof. But likewise, children, the law and Bible damn all bearers of false witness." (Danforth, p. _____)
- J. "We are here, Your Honor, precisely to discover what no one has ever seen." (Parris, p. _____)
- K. "And yet, when people accused of witchery confronted you in court, you would faint, saying their spirits came out of their bodies and choked you" (Hathorne to Mary Warren, p. _____)
- L. "I - I know not. A wind, a cold wind, has come." (Abigail, p. _____)
- M. "I have made a bell of my honor! I have rung the doom of my good name." (Proctor, p. _____)
- N. "Private vengeance is working through this testimony!" (Hale, p. _____)
- O. "Praise God!" (Parris and the girls after the crying out and Mary's calling Proctor "the Devil's man!", p. _____)
- P. "I say - I say - God is dead!" (Proctor, p. _____)
- Q. "A fire, a fire is burning! I hear the boot of Lucifer, I see his filthy face! And it is my face, and yours, Danforth! For them that quail to bring men out of ignorance, as I have quailed, and as you quail now when you know in all your black hearts that this be fraud - God damns our kind especially, and we will burn, we will burn together!" (Proctor, p. _____)