

ACT IV OF THE CRUCIBLE BY ARTHUR MILLER (Pages 878-887)

QUESTIONS

1. What is the significance of the scene between Herrick and the accused witches?
2. Why does Reverend Hale tell the accused witches to confess?
3. What does the news of what is happening in Andover have to do with the trials in Salem?
4. Why does Parris say Abigail has vanished?
5. Why does Parris suggest the hanging be postponed?
6. Why does Danforth want Proctor to see Elizabeth? What does he hope it will cause him to do?
7. What are the conditions in Salem? Why?
8. Why doesn't Elizabeth beg John to confess?
9. Why does Proctor initially say he will confess? Why does he refuse to sign the confession?
10. Why does Parris beg Elizabeth to get John's confession? Why does she refuse?
11. Why does Miller end the play with Proctor's refusal to sign the confession and Elizabeth's refusal to beg him to do so?

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

- A. "Oh, it be no Hell in Barbados. Devil, him be pleasureman in Barbados, him be singin' and dancin' in Barbados. It's you folks - you riles him up 'round here; it be too cold 'round here for that Old Boy. He freeze his soul in Massachusetts, but in Barbados he just and sweet." (Tituba, p. _____)
- B. "I met him [Parris] yesterday coming out of his house, and I bid him good morning - and he wept and went his way." (Hathorne, p. _____)
- C. "My niece, sir, my niece - I believe she has vanished....She told me she would stay a night with Mercy Lewis....Mercy told him [Mr. Lewis] she would sleep in my house for a night....I think they be aboard a ship... my strongbox is broke into....Thirty-one pound is gone. I am penniless." (Parris, p. _____)
- D. "Mr. Parris, you are a brainless man!" (Danforth, p. _____)
- E. "Andover have thrown out the court, they say, and will have no part of witchcraft. There be a faction here, feeding on that news, and I tell you true, sir, I fear there will be riot here...these people [the accused witches] have great weight yet in the town....Excellency, I would postpone these hangin's for a time." (Parris, p. _____)
- F. "Now Mr. Hale's returned, there is hope, I think - for if he bring even one of these to God, that confession surely damns the others in the public eye, and none may doubt more that they are all linked to Hell." (Parris, p. _____)
- G. "Tonight, when I open my door to leave my house - a dagger clattered to the ground....There is danger for me." (Parris, p. _____)
- H. "Postponement now speaks a floundering on my part; reprieve or pardon must cast doubt upon the guilt

of them that died till now. While I speak God's law, I will not crack its voice with whimpering. If retaliation is your fear, know this - I should hang ten thousand that dared to rise against the law." (Danforth, p. _____)

I. "Excellency, there are orphans wandering from house to house; abandoned cattle bellow on the highroads, the stink of rotting crops hangs everywhere, and no man knows when the harlot's cry will end his life - and you wonder yet if rebellion's spoke?" (Hale, p. _____)

J. "For if he [Proctor] is taken I count myself his murderer." (Hale, p. _____)

K. "He were not hanged. He would not answer aye or nay to his indictment; for if he denied the charge they'd hang him surely, and auction out his property. So he stand mute, and died Christian under the law. And so his sons will have his farm." (Elizabeth to Proctor about Giles, p. _____)

L. "Spite only keeps me silent. It is hard to give a lie to dogs." (Proctor, p. _____)

M. "John, it come to naught that I should forgive you, if you'll not forgive yourself." (Elizabeth, p. _____)

N. "I speak my own sins; I cannot judge another. I have no tongue for it." (Proctor, p. _____)

O. "Because it is my name! Because I cannot have another in my life! Because I lie and sign myself to lies! Because I am not worth the dust on the feet of them that hang! How may I live without my name? I have given you my soul; leave my name! (Proctor explaining why he will not sign a confession, p. _____)

P. "He [Proctor] have his goodness now. God forbid I take it from him! (Elizabeth, p. _____)