1. According to the dictionary, a crucible is “a place or occasion of severe test or trial” or “a container in which metals or other substances may be melted.” Why do you think Miller named the play The Crucible?
2. What does the beginning of act one tell us about the Puritans and their views of how the world works?
3. Contrast the 1692 Salemites and their *Mayflower* predecessors?
4. What is a theocracy?
5. Why is Reverend Parris so afraid by the events in Salem? What possible result does he fear?
6. Interpret Abigail’s relationship (A) to the other girls, and (B) to John Proctor.

(A)

(B)

1. What happened to Abigail in her childhood? Why might this be important in her development?
2. Summarize Hale’s view of his mission in Salem.
3. At the beginning of the act, Tituba enters Betty’s bedroom in a fright because she knows “trouble in this house eventually lands on her back.” Are her fears justified? To what extent is Tituba a scapegoat for Abigail and the other girls, and to what extent does she share responsibility for the witch hunt?
4. Explain Rebecca Nurse’s lines, “A child’s spirit is like a child, you can never catch it by running after it; you must stand still, and, for love, it will soon itself come back.”

11. At the end of the act, what do you think is Abigail’s motivation to “open” herself and begin naming names? Describe the kind of person you suspect Abigail is; support your supposition with textual evidence.