

## The Crucible - Act One Study Questions



**“wheels  
within  
wheels in  
this village  
and fires  
within fires”**

Answer each question with at least two complete sentences.

1. Miller writes that "... now they and their church found it necessary to deny any other sect its freedom, lest their New Jerusalem be defiled and corrupted by wrong and deceitful ideas." What is the irony in that statement?
2. Why does Mrs. Putnam believe there are witches in Salem?
3. Why is Thomas Putnam bitter?
4. Parris says, "Oh, Abigail, what proper payment for my charity! Now I am undone!" What does that mean?
5. Why do Mary and Abigail argue?
6. What happened between Abigail and John Proctor prior to the opening of the play?
7. What was the "sign" that Betty was bewitched?
8. What did Rebecca do to Betty?
9. What is Rebecca's explanation of the girls' behavior?
10. Miller writes that "[t]here are wheels within wheels in this village and fires within fires." What does he mean by this?.
11. What is Proctor's reason for his not regularly attending church?
12. Giles Corey says, "Think on it now, it's a deep thing, and dark as a pit." To what is he referring, both literally and symbolically?
13. What do Putnam and Proctor argue about? In what ways is this argument significant?
14. Hale says, "They [the books] must be [heavy]; they are weighted with authority." What is the significance of this remark?
15. What do the girls do at the end of Act One?