

Act Two

1. What is the significance of the scene between Elizabeth and John Proctor? What does it reveal about their relationship and about their characters?
2. Why do you think Miller would include such a conversation?
3. What does Elizabeth encourage John to do?
4. Explain Elizabeth's statement: "John, if it were not Abigail that you must go to hurt, would you falter now? I think not." Then explain John's response.
5. What is the gift Mary Warren gives to Elizabeth?
6. What information does Mary Warren provide about the trial? What role is she playing at the trial? Why does John forbid her from attending?
7. How many had been arrested for witchcraft at this point?
8. Mary Warren tells Proctor that those accused will not hang if they do something. What is it that they must do?
9. Explain why Mary Warren thinks Elizabeth should speak civilly to her?
10. Why does Rev. Hale come to the Proctors' home? What does this scene reveal about Hale's role in the trial?

11. What does Proctor tell Hale about why the children were ill? How does he claim to know?
12. What is the point of the discussion between Hale and the Proctors about whether or not they believe in witches?
13. What event begins to change Hale's opinion about the arrests? How does he feel about the court?
14. Who do you think accused Elizabeth and why?
15. Which of the Ten Commandments does Proctor forget?
16. How are these two ideas connected: 1) Walcott buying a pig and 2) Martha Corey being accused of witchcraft?
17. Explain the allusion that Proctor makes to Pontius Pilate.
18. What does Proctor want Mary Warren to do after Elizabeth is arrested? What is her response to this?
19. What do we learn about Mary Warren's motives at the end of the act? Why did she give the poppet to Elizabeth?