Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*The Crucible* Act Four

1. The scene in the jail with Herrick, Sarah Good, and Tituba can be seen as comic relief – for a moment the tension and seriousness of the play is reduced. There is also a serious purpose in this scene. What is it?
2. Why do you think Danforth is said to be alarmed at the news that Abigail and Mercy Lewis have fled?

What inner conflict may this news rouse in him?

How does this conflict affect the course of his decisions in this act?

1. How might John Hale’s description of the countryside be regarded as symbolic of the moral and spiritual desolation that has afflicted Salem?
2. In the critical scene between Elizabeth and John Proctor, we gain insight into John’s actions at the climax of the play. How are Elizabeth and John both tortured by guilt?

Why does Elizabeth refuse to influence John’s decision?

1. What is the importance regarding the structure of the play of the appearance of Rebecca Nurse just when John Proctor is struggling to make the most important decision of his life?
2. What structural parallel in Act Two is recalled by John’s tearing up of his confession near the end of this act?

How does this parallel relate to a theme of the play?

1. In what ways is the subject of identity raised in the final scene?
2. Did John Proctor reach the right decision at the end of the play?

What other decisions could he have reached?