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

*The Crucible* Act Three

1. What device does Miller use for the dialogue at the beginning of this act?

What might this device suggest about the tone of the legal proceedings that follow?

1. It is not until this act that Miller introduces one of the most important characters in the play, Deputy Governor Danforth. What are some of the elements of his complex personality in this act?

How does the portrait of Danforth contrast, for example, with the characterizations in this act of Samuel Parris and Judge Hathorne?

1. This act is the most legalistic act in the play, filled with claims and counterclaims. Many of the arguments and decisions in the Salem court depend on faulty logic and result in a perversion of justice. When Danforth rejects Hale’s request that legal counsel present Mary Warren’s deposition, how is the governor’s logic faulty?

What do you think about the propriety of Danforth’s insistence that Giles Corey name the anonymous informant who accused Thomas Putnam?

How might John Hale be said to identify the major underlying problem with the court’s justice when he says, “There is a prodigious fear of this court in the country” ?

1. This act contains much irony. Explain how the following are ironic:
2. John Proctor’s confession
3. Proctor’s passionate outburst at the end of the act, together with the court’s interpretation of his remarks.
4. Miller’s comment in the stage directions that Abigail, “out of her infinite charity, reaches out and draws the sobbing Mary to her.”
5. Although this act centers on the subjects of hypocrisy and hysteria in the court proceedings, we are also presented with several examples of courage and the assertion of integrity. How are the following characters linked with the subject of courage in this act:
6. Mary Warren
7. John Proctor
8. Giles Corey
9. John Hale