‘The Crucible’ Act 1

1. Explain the tense situations which occurs as the play opens.
2. Outline the conversation Parris has with Abigail in p. 19-20
3. Make notes on the information Miller shares with the audience about Putnam (22-3)
4. Explain the way Abigail manipulates her friends into accepting her version of events regarding ‘what happened in the woods.’ What is the actual truth and what does Abigail say happened?
5. Make notes on the conversation Proctor and Abigail have (28-30). What is significant about the line, **“ Oh posh! We were dancing in the woods last night, and my uncle leaped in on us. She took fright is all.”** In the context of what happens later, why is this line so important?
6. Who is Rebecca Nurse and explain how she handles herself in this Act.? Use evidence from the text to support your points as well as Miller’s directorial intrusion on (p.31-2)
7. Explain the tension which arises between Proctor and Parris.
8. Having read the intrusion on 37-40, create a mind map about Hale and his beliefs about the devil and religion.
9. Explain the conflict and tension which is created involving Abigail and Tituba. What happens to Abigail that makes her use Tituba as a scapegoat?
10. Why does Tituba change her mind about being ‘with the devil.’ What do you think is Tituba’s symbolic function in the text? What point is Miller making here about his own society as we witness the terrible fury of false accusations and the power of lies?