Journals *The Crucible*

1. How/why can hysteria destroy a society?
2. A key theme in this play is morality vs social pressure. Why do these two concepts seem to always be in opposition?
3. Miller frequently uses authorial intrusion, a technique where the narrator interrupts the dialogue to comment. Why would this be a useful technique for the writer and audience?
4. Early into Act 1, how are hypocrisy and dissent already evident within the community?
5. In Act 1, Miller inserts comments on many of the characters. Why did he choose to not comment on Abigail?
6. Why does Miller choose to refer to Ann Putnam as Mrs. Putnam, but refers to Rebecca Nurse as Rebecca?
7. Read the stage directions at the beginning of Act II (pg. 937). In a chunk, explain Miller’s purpose in providing such a detailed introduction to Proctor’s entrance. What might Proctor’s actions signify?

8. In Act III, what is important when Danforth states, “A person is either with the court or against it?”

9. Which character’s actions are a reflection of Miller’s purpose in writing the play?

10. What three messages was Miller trying to convey to the reader?

11. Which character remained truest to what he or she believed in?

12. What is the difference between a dynamic and a static character? Analyze two characters who are dynamic.