***The Crucible* Act 2 Socratic Discussion**

**Rules**

* This discussion will be student-led, and the teacher will not be an active participant. You must lead the discussion, which means you will determine the direction of the discussion and the quality of it.
* Prepare yourself for the discussion. Complete the ACT 2 reading and complete the discussion questions. Complete the questions for the Group of questions that you have been assigned using the ACE Model and anticipate what you would like to discuss and say. (ACE Model: 1. Answer the question 2. Cite examples and quotes from the text) 3. Explain your examples and quotes and how they support your answer.
* Be respectful at all times.
* As a group, you will either naturally fall into a discussion pattern where everyone has a chance to speak in an orderly fashion. If this is not the case, then determine a method for speaking that is fair.
* For each group of questions (there are 3), 8-10 students will lead a discussion. There will be 3 discussions total, and a different group of students will lead each one. The goal is for all students to participate in 1 or more discussions.
* So how can you be in more than one discussion? There will be 2 open seats for observers to enter and engage in the discussion. If these 2 seats are filled, and you would like to join the discussion, you simply need to tag out one of the 2 people in these open seats. Be sure not to tag the person out while he or she is speaking.
* You will be graded on your…
  + Ability to draw insightful conclusions about the text and the provided questions.
  + Use of textual evidence.
  + Ability to piggyback and connect your thoughts and comments to the ideas voiced by other classmates.
  + Contribution in driving the quality of the discussion.

**IMPORTANT**

* **Your typed responses to these questions will be due to turnitin.com on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by 11:59pm.**
* **This discussion will be held on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
* **Bring a hardcopy of printed responses to class the day of the discussion.**

**Discussion Group 1 (The personal conflict between John & Elizabeth Proctor)**

1. Is John Proctor cold and distant or is Elizabeth Proctor cold and distant?
2. Is Elizabeth justified in her continual mistrust of John even though his affair with Abigail ended seven months ago?
3. Is John justified in believing that Elizabeth should have forgiven and forgotten his affair with Abigail and come to trust him again?
4. Do John and Elizabeth both have a right to their feelings, neither of them, or only one of them?
5. Do you think the tension in their relationship is solely due to the affair? Explain. How might the time period and the role of men and women play a part? Is there a larger social conflict?
6. Whose fault is it that this affair occurred?
7. Whose fault is it that Elizabeth is arrested? Are there multiple people to blame?
8. Why does Elizabeth go so willingly with the authorities?

**Discussion Group 2 (The intentions of Reverend John Hale)**

1. Discuss the timing of Rev. Hale’s entrance. What is significant about the timing in connection to what is currently transpiring between Elizabeth and John? What was private that the Proctors would not want public and why, especially in front of a man of God?
2. When Rev. Hale enters Act 2, the stage directions describe him in the following manner: “*He is different now—drawn a little, and there is a quality of deference, even of guilt, about his manner now*.” What conclusions can you draw about his character based on this description?
3. Why does Hale become suspicious of the Proctors?
4. Why does Proctor call Hale “Pontius Pilate” on pg. 73? Discuss this comparison and the biblical allusion.
5. What is ironic about Hale urging the Proctor’s to show “charity” after Elizabeth is arrested?
6. What are Hale’s intentions? Specifically look at the exchange between Proctor and Hale on pg. 73-75. How does this passage possibly reveal Hale’s intentions? Are his intentions good or bad?
7. Does Hale have any flaws or vices or is he faultless due to his morals and strong beliefs?

**Discussion Group 3 (The importance of the minor character Mary Warren)**

1. Why does Mary Warren give Elizabeth the gift? What are her motivations?
2. How does Mary Warren represent the position of the girls and young women in the Salem society?
3. How does Mary Warren’s character change from the courtroom to the Proctor household? How is she many-faced?
4. Discuss Mary Warren’s demeanor when she is being questioned about the poppet. What conclusions can you draw?
5. Mary’s actions could be described as a betrayal? Why would she want to betray the Proctors?
6. During the last interaction between John Proctor and Mary Warren in Act 2, John verbally and physically attacks Mary Warren. Read the end of Act 2 from the point where Giles Corey and Francis Nurse exit until “*The Curtain Falls”* (pg. 75-76). Where does your sympathy rest as the reader? Do you feel for Mary or Proctor? Why?
7. What is the meaning behind Proctor’s final words in Act 2? Examine the line “Now Hell and Heaven grapple on our backs” until “And the wind, God’s icy wind, will blow!”