**Socratic Seminar Discussion Questions – *The Crucible***

Please respond to the following questions regarding The Crucible. Support your ideas with examples from the play, the world, or your own life. Think before you come to class so our discussion is insightful and memorable for all participants, so shoot for several sentences in each response. **Respond to 10 of the following …..**

1. Does reverend Hale help or hurt the Salem witch trials?
2. Is John Proctor selfish or selfless?
3. Is John Proctor a hero or did he get what he deserved?
4. Is Abigail a selfish liar or is she a victim of an oppressive society?
5. Does this play promote the idea that it’s okay to lie and cheat as long as you can get away with it?
6. Does going to church help the people of Salem become better citizens?
7. Is justice best determined in a court of law?
8. Can a work of art such as a play/film change anything?
9. Define crucible. Find other words that are similar to crucible and decide why you think it is in the title of the play.
10. What role does religion play in *The Crucible*? Is it a positive or negative force? Think of specific examples to support your point.
11. How can we relate the events in *The Crucible* to modern day?
12. Why does Proctor initially agree to confess that he has trafficked with the devil?
13. What causes Proctor to change his mind and not confess? List a couple of reasons.
14. Is maintaining personal integrity more important than survival or self-preservation?
15. Despite the lessons learned from the Salem Witch Trials, we have seen the damage of mass hysteria repeated. Why do societies throughout history continue to react irrationally in times if fear or panic?
16. 4. How do we know that Elizabeth finally forgave Proctor?
17. What does Elizabeth mean when she says: “He has his goodness now; God forbid I take it from him.” How has Procter earned his goodness back?

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