

The Scarlet Letter Study Guide

1. About the Author: Give his name, date of birth & death, where he was born. How had his family been associated with the Salem Witch Trials? His wife was _____; Hawthorne has been called the _____ . Another of his famous novels was _____ .

2. What is a frame story? How is the Custom House a frame for the novel? What does the narrator find there? How do the narrator's views parallel those of Hester?

3. Explain the importance of each:

a) Hester Prynne

b) Arthur Dimmesdale

c) Roger Chillingworth

d) Pearl

e) the Puritans & Gov. Bellingham

f) Rev. John Wilson

g) Mistress Hibbins *she was a "real person"

3. Give the setting--time, place, historical importance.

4. Discuss the importance of each of these themes in the novel; include any famous quotes or events pertaining to each:

a) women

b)sin

c)forgiveness

d)revenge

5.How is the supernatural a part of the novel?

6. Tell the title of chapter 1; give the symbolism of the prison door, the rose bush, the letter A. Chapter 2 is title _____; tell the crowd's reaction to Hester as she leaves the prison.

7.After Hester leaves prison, where does she live? What type interaction does she have with the townspeople? How do the children treat Pearl?

7.Who was Anne Hutchinson?

8.The _____ is a euphemism for Satan.

9.Explain the relationship the townspeople have the Rev. Dimmesdale?

10.Who is Pearl's father? What is his occupation?

11.Define Transcendentalism.

12.Why would Hester's husband send her to America and not come with her and why did he not want the townspeople to know their relationship?

13..While in prison, what was part of Hester's punishment?_____convinced the governor to spare Hester from any other forms of punishment.

14. Explain the relationship between Dimmesdale and Chillingworth.

15. How is Hester able to earn a living? What is the one thing the women of the town will not allow her to sew for their daughters and why?

16. Tell the significance of Pearl's name. How did Pearl react when she saw her mother without the scarlet letter cape on?

17. Why do you think Hester chose to stay in Boston after being released from prison?

18. In ch. 7 Hester went to _____ mansion for two reasons; tell those reasons. Which other people were at the mansion also? Which one spoke for Hester to be allowed to keep Pearl?

19. How did Pearl act while they were at the governor's mansion?

20. How does Hester dress Pearl and why is that important?

21. The townpeople sometimes called Dimmesdale a _____ because of his profession; how were leeches used in medicine during Puritan times?

22. Dimmesdale & Chillingworth live near the _____ in a widow's house. Explain the difference in their rooms.

23. How does Hester's wearing the A differ from Dimmesdale's guilt? What is causing his guilt and what symbol does Chillingworth discover on Dimmesdale's chest?

24. In order to alleviate his guilty feelings, the preacher decides to hold a vigil on the _____; why would he choose that particular place?

25. While on the scaffolding the pain becomes so great for Dimmesdale that he cries aloud. Some people think they've heard a _____'s voice.

26. _____ was there and asked him if he would stand with her and her mother the next day. What was his reply?

27. The _____ causes Dimmesdale to see a _____ in the sky

28. During this time Dimmesdale's sermons become _____; how do the church people see him? (What do they think of their preacher)

29. How does Dimmesdale punish himself physically?

30. When chapter 13 opens _____ years have passed since Pearl's birth. How has Hester's involvement in the community changed?

31. What do the people now think of the "A" on her cape? How does Hester feel about the "A" now?

32. How has Chillingworth changed?

33. Tell how Hester feels about Chillingworth?

34. Why do the people not "figure out" who Pearl's father is?

35. Explain the symbolism & significance of the meetings in the woods at night.

36. How do Hester and Rev. Dimmesdale plan to leave Boston?

37. How does Hester differentiate sin and evil?

38. Why will Pearl not accept Dimmesdale (ch. 19)

39. Tell the importance of Election Day.

40. When the sun shines on Hester when she removes her cape, it symbolized_____.

41. In ch.21, why have the people gathered at the marketplace?

42. Mistress Hibbins tells Hester that perhaps the_____ Pearl's real father.

43. How does the pagentry of Election Day seem hypocritical to Hester?

44. What do the Native Americans think of Hester's cape with the scarlet "A"?

45. The focus of Dimmesdale's sermon for Election Day is_____.

46. Why does Dimmesdale call Hester & Pearl to him when he goes to the scaffolding? What does he tell the crowd?

47. Who said, "Thou hast escaped me!"? What did he mean and who was he talking about?

48. Why does Pearl kiss Dimmesdale now?

49. _____ dies and Pearl & Hester go to _____; why will Pearl not stay there but return to Boston?

50. Pearl receives a large inheritance from_____.

51. Where is Pearl buried and who is she buried next to? Describe their shared headstone.

52. The story is told in _____ point of view.

II. Literary terms--define each term. THEN give an example for each from the novel. Be sure to include the chapter in which it's found.

1. setting

2.theme

3.character

4.dialogue

5.point of view--be sure to tell 1st person, 3rd person, and omniscient pov as well.

6.protagonist

7.antagonist

8.foreshadowing

9.historical fiction(Historical context)

10.allusion

11.symbol

12.conflict

13.metaphor

14.personification

15.simile

16..Plot--the sequence of events in a literary work: the 6 parts of the plot are (1)exposition, (2)inciting incident, (3)development, (4)climax, (5)resolution, (6)denouement. Define each of those parts of the plot.

III. Vocabulary--define each word

1. Puritanic

2. alms house

3. somnambulism

4. zenith

5. scaffold

6. martyr

7. anathema

8. catechism

9. apothecary

10. deportment

11. necromancer

Study Guide Due August 20--Tuesday

Book test Friday August 23