

## MULTIPLE CHOICE STUDY GUIDE/QUIZ QUESTIONS - *The Scarlet Letter*

### Chapters 1-4

1. Identify: A=Hester Prynne B=Pearl C=Rev. Mr. Dimmesdale D=Roger Chillingworth  
She has sinned and must wear the letter "A."  
He asks the sinner to reveal the name of the man who sinned with her.  
He is the sinner's former husband.  
She is the daughter of the sinner.

2. For what did the letter A stand?

- a. Alone
- b. Adultery
- c. Adopted
- d. Aspersion

3. What information did Hester refuse to tell the officials and Mr. Dimmesdale?

- a. Against whom she had committed libel
- b. Where her former husband had gone
- c. The name of the man who had sinned with her
- d. The age of her daughter

4. What was the relationship between Hester and Roger Chillingworth?

- a. They were divorced.
- b. They were just married.
- c. They were married but had been separated.
- d. They were in love.

5. What did Hester promise to Roger Chillingworth?

- a. To conceal his true identity
- b. To give him the divorce he asked for
- c. Not to tell Rev. Dimmesdale about his sins
- d. Not to ever leave him again

### Chapters 5-7

1. Hester is released from prison. Why doesn't she run away to a different settlement?

- a. She is not allowed to under the terms of her release.
- b. She loves Rev. Dimmesdale and must remain near him.
- c. Pearl is too young to travel.
- d. She feels her soul may be purged clean if she remains living there, disgraced.

2. How did Hester support herself and Pearl?

- a. Sewing
- b. Growing & selling food
- c. Selling prayer books
- d. She couldn't support them; they depended on charity.

3. Describe Pearl.
  - a. Beautiful but not smart
  - b. Ugly and nasty
  - c. Beautiful but unusual
  - d. Not beautiful, but sweet and docile
  
4. Describe Hester's feelings towards Pearl.
  - a. She resented Pearl.
  - b. She loved Pearl.
  - c. She had no feelings one way or the other.
  - d. She didn't even like Pearl.
  
5. Why did Hester go to see Governor Bellingham?
  - a. To plead for her life
  - b. To tell him Roger's true identity
  - c. To plead to keep Pearl
  - d. To tell him that Rev. Dimmesdale was the other sinner
  
6. What did Hester and Pearl see in the breastplate of the armor?
  - a. A grotesque devil
  - b. A crucifix
  - c. Hester's "A"
  - d. A reflection of the Bible

#### Chapters 8-10

1. Mr. Wilson asks Pearl, "Canst thou tell me, my child, who made thee?" What is Pearl's answer?
  - a. "The Holy Father, God Almighty!"
  - b. "I am a child of the devil's work."
  - c. "I was plucked from the wild rose bush by my mother's prison door."
  - d. "I don't know who made me."
  
2. What convinced the Governor to let Hester keep Pearl?
  - a. Hester would constantly remind Pearl of the consequences of sin.
  - b. Rev. Dimmesdale promised to watch the mother and child closely & report anything that might interest the governor
  - c. Hester agreed to allow Chillingworth live with her and Pearl, so they could all be a "real family."
  - d. It was just a whim, as was his customary way of making decisions.
  
3. How did Roger Chillingworth become Dimmesdale's medical advisor?
  - a. Chillingworth paid him to be his first patient so he could get his medical practice started.
  - b. The church elders and deacons reminded him it would be a sin not to seek medical help.
  - c. Hester Prynne arranged it.

d. Dimmesdale did it for Hester's sake.

4. Who is the leech?

- a. Dimmesdale
- b. Hester
- c. Pearl
- d. Chillingworth

5. Why did Mr. Dimmesdale rush from the room to end the conversation he had with Roger Chillingworth?

- a. To tend to an urgent call
- b. To make Chillingworth angry
- c. To keep from hitting Chillingworth
- d. To keep from being trapped into a confession

Chapters 11-13

1. What does Rev. Dimmesdale's congregation think of him?

- a. They think he's a pitiful minister.
- b. They think he's practically a saint.
- c. They think he's a horrible sinner.
- d. They think he's a weak man who succumbed to the temptations of life.

2. Where did Mr. Dimmesdale go at midnight?

- a. To the forest
- b. To Hester's house
- c. To the scaffolding
- d. To see Chillingworth

3. What did Pearl ask Mr. Dimmesdale?

- a. If he was her father
- b. If he was a brother to the devil
- c. If he would stand hand in hand with her & Hester on the scaffolding
- d. If he would help her mother make a better life for them

4. What "sign" did the meteor make in the sky?

- a. A crucifix
- b. An A
- c. A frown
- d. A pitchfork

5. Where had Mr. Wilson, Hester, Pearl and Roger Chillingworth been that night, that they

would all be walking by the scaffolding at midnight?

- a. In the forest
- b. At the church

- c. At the governor's deathbed
- d. At Dimmesdale's special meeting

6. What were people beginning to think of Hester?

- a. They were beginning to think she was a witch as well as a sinner.
- b. They were beginning to recognize her as a person instead of as just a sinner.
- c. They were beginning to think she was "born bad."
- d. They were beginning to suspect that she had had an affair with Rev. Dimmesdale.

#### Chapters 14-17

1. What did Hester tell Roger Chillingworth when they met on the peninsula?

- a. Rev. Dimmesdale was sicker than even Chillingworth thought.
- b. She wanted Chillingworth to admit to being the "other sinner."
- c. She was going to break her promise to him.
- d. She couldn't help falling in love with him again.

2. Why do Hester and Pearl go to the forest?

- a. To enjoy nature's solitude
- b. To pick flowers
- c. To pray
- d. To intercept Dimmesdale

3. When Mr. Dimmesdale finds out that Roger Chillingworth is out for revenge, he knows

his religious career in Boston will be at an end and his life will be miserable. What does Hester suggest?

- a. She suggests a plot to get rid of Chillingworth.
- b. She suggests that Dimmesdale should take Pearl and go away.
- c. She suggests that Dimmesdale should go away, taking her and Pearl, too.
- d. She suggests that Dimmesdale should stay and face his punishment as she has done, that, in doing so, his soul might also be cleansed before his life ends.

#### Chapters 18-21

1. What did Hester have to do by the brook before Pearl would come across?

- a. Make Dimmesdale go away
- b. Pin her A back on
- c. Promise to come to the brook again
- d. Promise that they would move away together

2. Mr. Dimmesdale kissed Pearl. What did she do in response?

- a. Ran to the brook and washed it off
- b. Spit at him
- c. Slapped him
- d. Hugged him

3. How did Rev. Mr. Dimmesdale's attitude change after he decided to leave Boston with Hester?

- a. Felt better
- b. Had more energy
- c. Felt temptation to do bad things
- d. All of the above

Chapters 22-24

1. What news did the commander of the Bristol ship bring Hester?

- a. The ship's departure would be delayed by at least three weeks.
- b. Chillingworth had taken Pearl on board the ship *Venturer*.
- c. Dimmesdale had already left on board the ship *Venturer*.
- d. Chillingworth had booked passage on the Bristol ship.

2. What did Mr. Dimmesdale tell the people of New England before he died?

- a. He confessed that he was the one who had sinned with Hester, that Pearl was his child.
- b. He told them to beware, to be watchful of their own souls; even the most pious among them is easy prey to temptation.
- c. He asked their eternal forgiveness and their pity upon Hester and Pearl.
- d. All of the above

3. What did the people see when Mr. Dimmesdale took off his ministerial band?

- a. Nothing; whatever he thought was there did not exist
- b. A grotesque image of the devil
- c. An imprint matching Hester's "A"
- d. The Eye of God

4. What happened to Hester?

- a. She vanished, never to be seen again.
- b. She vanished, but later returned to her home in Boston.
- c. She lived in her home in Boston for the rest of her days.
- d. She moved to a different settlement.

5. What happened to Chillingworth?

- a. He vanished.
- b. He gave up the practice of medicine to become a clergyman after seeing the error of his ways.
- c. He died within a year, leaving his property to Pearl.
- d. He died within a year, penniless, a broken, miserable man.

6. What happened to Pearl?

- a. She married and lived in her mother's home in Boston.
- b. She married and lived in England.
- c. She vanished, never to be heard of again.
- d. She moved to England to live as a recluse as penance for her mother's sins.