Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Scarlet Letter Review

1. What gesture does Reverend Dimmesdale make throughout the book?
2. What is ironic about the first scene on the scaffold?
3. Hester earns a living through her needlework, but is not asked to embellish what?
4. How does Pearl react when she sees her mother without the scarlet letter?
5. What literary device is used here, “It was like a mask; or rather, like the frozen calmness of a dead woman’s features.”?
6. Who is called the Leech?
7. What does Hester convince Dimmesdale to do during their walk in the woods?
8. What color was the embroidery on the letter A?
9. What city is it set in?
10. Why does Chillingworth not reveal himself as Hester’s husband?
11. Which two characters take up residence together?
12. What is situated immediately outside the door of the prison where Hester is kept?
13. How does Pearl finally acknowledge Dimmesdale as her father at his death?
14. What profession does Chillingworth pretend to be?
15. Which character in the book do we not hear about his or her death?
16. What was the scarlet letter also known for later in the book?
17. What do people think they see on Dimmesdale’s chest?
18. How long was Hester’s husband absent for?
19. Dimmesdale serves the community as a what?
20. What does Hester always wear to cover her hair?
21. Does Hester always wear the Scarlet letter?
22. Does the governor want to take Pearl from Hester?
23. Does Mistress Hibbins visit the forest at night?
24. When does Dimmesdale find out Chillingworth’s true identity?
25. Is the narrator an omniscient narrator?
26. How old is Pearl when she is seen by the townspeople?
27. Does Pearl forgive Dimmesdale?
28. Who does the Black Man refer to?
29. Were citizens allowed to worship as they pleased?
30. Who sees their reflection in a pool of water at the governor’s mansion?

Short Answer:

1. Briefly describe the significance of the three scenes that take place at the gallows.
2. Choose two symbols that are present in the novel (other than the scarlet letter) and describe their significance to the story.
3. In your opinion, who is the least guilty in the novel out of Hester, Chillingworth, and Dimmesdale? Justify your answer.
4. Hester says that “shame, despair, and solititude” brought on by the scarlet letter have been her teachers. Evaluate how a letter stitched upon her chest has accomplished all of this.
5. In the Puritan society, adultery was a heinous crime. Why was Hester allowed to live when the typical punishment was death?
6. Compare and contrast how adultery is viewed in the Puritan society and how it is viewed in our society today. Be sure to look at topics including the social stigma, punishments, who is ultimately responsible, and even how it effects the children of adulterers.
7. How is the scarlet letter embodied by Pearl? How does she reflect the symbol in the eyes of her mother and the townspeople? What about her personality makes her stand out among the eyes of others?