

CliffsNotes.com® Quiz for THE SCARLET LETTER

- Hawthorne supposedly found the parchment sheets that contained the historical manuscript on which the novel is based in**
 - a shoebox under his bed
 - a file cabinet at the Essex Historical Society
 - the Salem Custom House, along with the faded scarlet "A"
 - a box filled with his father's papers
- Hawthorne suggests that the wild rosebush that grows outside the prison door is a symbol of**
 - virginity.
 - the loss of true love.
 - natural, untamed beauty.
 - the thorny road of life.
- What does the scarlet letter look like?**
 - Very plain and severe, like most Puritan decorations
 - Artistically done, with elaborate embroidery and flourishes of gold thread
 - A plain "A," twined with a thorny rosebush
 - Small and understated, so that it blends into Hester's dress
- Hester's husband, Roger Chillingworth, is**
 - much younger than she is
 - her soul mate
 - much older than she is
 - the minister of the town of Salem
- By punishing Hester with the scarlet letter, the Puritan community is**
 - being reasonable about their justice
 - following the principles of religious forgiveness
 - proclaiming its own smug self-righteousness
 - promising redemption at her death
- Two symbolic images of the good and evil battling over Dimmesdale's soul are**
 - Pearl and Hester
 - Chillingworth and Pearl
 - Chillingworth and Mistress Hibbins
 - the immense red "A" that appears in the sky as Dimmesdale performs a silent vigil on the scaffold and the scarlet letter "A" that Hester wears
- When asked who created her, Pearl says it was**
 - God
 - her parents
 - the wild rosebush outside the prison door
 - the Lord of Misrule
- As time goes by, Hester's scarlet letter comes to stand for**
 - amends
 - articulate
 - able
 - angel
- Chillingworth became the greatest sinner in violating the human heart because he**
 - felt the church should have avenged him
 - single-mindedly was bent on personal revenge
 - neglected his young wife
 - consistently acted with indifference toward everyone around him
- Hester tells Dimmesdale in the forest that humans have a right to be happy and that**
 - the love she shared with him was sacred
 - prayer could bring about their atonement
 - the Puritan community had no right to tell them what to do
 - their behavior could be judged only by God
- After she is released from prison, Hester remains in Boston because**
 - the townspeople won't let her go
 - she and Pearl's father can live together, giving Pearl a more stable lifestyle
 - she has neither money nor friends to support herself if she moves
 - every other place on earth would feel foreign to her, so she is bound, psychologically, to stay
- To support herself and Pearl, Hester sells needlework for all public ceremonies except**
 - weddings
 - funerals
 - ordinations of new ministers
 - baptisms

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13. Following an impressive meteor shower, the people of Boston see a symbol in the sky: a huge letter "A." They interpret this "A" as standing for
- adultery
 - able
 - angel
 - Arthur (as in Arthur Dimmesdale)
14. Hester decides to reveal Chillingworth's true identity to Dimmesdale because
- she realizes that Chillingworth is literally killing Dimmesdale
 - she wants to hurt Dimmesdale by revealing her love for Chillingworth
 - she wants Pearl to meet her real father
 - otherwise Chillingworth will reveal the secret himself
15. Hester explains the scarlet letter to Pearl by saying it is
- a symbol of her membership in a secret society of women
 - a family heirloom, given to her by her grandmother
 - a sample of her craftsmanship
 - a mark left from her one meeting with the Black Man
16. Who says the following: "It irks me, nevertheless, that the partner of her iniquity should not, at least, stand on the scaffold by her side. But he will be known! — he will be known! — he will be known!"
- Dimmesdale
 - Chillingworth
 - Mistress Hibbins
 - One of the townswomen
17. Who says the following: "What we did had a consecration of its own. We felt it so! We said so to each other! Hast thou forgotten it?"
- Chillingworth
 - Dimmesdale
 - Hester
 - Pearl
18. Who says the following: "No man, for any considerable period, can wear one face to himself, and another to the multitude, without finally getting bewildered as to which may be true."
- Hester
 - The author is speaking directly to the reader
 - Chillingworth
 - Dimmesdale
19. One of Hawthorne's ancestors was a judge in the Salem witch trials.
- True
 - False
20. When Roger Chillingworth arrives in Boston and discovers his wife, Hester, disgraced on the scaffold, his face writhes in horror like a snake.
- True
 - False
21. Hester and her husband were once deeply in love until he deserted her by moving west.
- True
 - False
22. The needlework Hester does to support herself and Pearl is plain and ordinary, in typical Puritan fashion.
- True
 - False
23. Some members of the town want to take Pearl away from Hester because they think she is too poor to support a child.
- True
 - False
24. Pearl is associated with elves, mermaids, and the Lord of Misrule.
- True
 - False
25. Arthur Dimmesdale asks Roger Chillingworth to come live with him because he feels guilty for falling in love with Chillingworth's wife.
- True
 - False

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Answers:

- (1) c
- (2) c
- (3) b
- (4) c
- (5) c
- (6) b
- (7) c
- (8) c
- (9) b
- (10) a
- (11) d
- (12) a
- (13) c
- (14) a
- (15) d
- (16) b
- (17) c
- (18) b
- (19) a
- (20) a
- (21) b
- (22) b
- (23) b
- (24) a
- (25) b