

## The Scarlet Letter Journals

## Chapters 16-20

Complete the following. Each question should have a minimum of **7-10 sentences** for the answer and be supported by **specific details** from the novel. **Use direct quotes** from the novel as support. **\*\*ALL quotes need page numbers\*\***

Questions for Chapters 16-20: **\*\* Choose two (2)\*\***

1. Why are Hester and Pearl walking in the forest? What avoids Hester as they walk and what is Pearl's explanation for this avoidance?
2. Like the fables of "Hansel and Gretel" or "Little Red Riding Hood," Pearl has been told to avoid the forest because who lives there? When Pearl asks her mother if she has met this man, what is Hester's response and to whom do you think she is referring? Who approaches them in the forest that Pearl says is this man?
3. How does Dimmesdale feel about the "good work" that he does in the community? Has he found peace? Has Hester? Why do you think that these two (who have committed the same sin) have not found the same peace?
4. What secret does Hester reveal to Dimmesdale and how does he react? Is he justified in his initial reaction? Why or why not?
5. What does Hester say to Dimmesdale that changes his mind about the possibility of leaving Boston and what does that tell about his personality and health – will he get better? Why or why not?
6. What does Hester do to show her freedom from the "A" (two things) and what do they symbolize? How does Nature react? How does Pearl react to this transformation and what does she demand? How does Pearl react after her mother gives into her demands? How about her reaction to her father's kiss? Why is this so significant? (What does this show?)
7. In deciding to leave Boston, are Dimmesdale and Hester giving in to society? Why or why not? Why do they choose to go to Europe rather than remain in the New World?
8. How has the meeting with Hester changed Dimmesdale (think about his actions/reactions to other people he meets on his way back to town). What does Mistress Hibbins see in him and invite him to go do?
9. Hester wears her scarlet letter, a symbol of social judgment and alienation, yet in reality Dimmesdale, for example, wears no visible symbol, and yet is quite alienated from society. Appearances often disguise reality. How do we as individuals, or as a society in general, judge others/alienate others because of appearances? Is there a time when we judge others and that judgment causes alienation?

**Characterization:**

Follow the four (4) main characters: Hester Prynne, Pearl, Roger Chillingworth and Arthur Dimmesdale. Find a **quote** that shows characterization or motivation for the character's actions. Look for specific words/descriptions/short passages that give a "picture" of each character (look for either a physical description or personality attributes)

**\*\*Explain** how the quote shows characterization.

**\*\*\***Have any of these characters changed from the last section? Focus on the change of their personalities and/or physical descriptions.

### Literary Skill:

Look for **three (3)** examples (**show with a quote**) of a literary skill such as: a symbol, personification, irony, metaphor, simile, allusion, alliteration or another type of figurative language. Then explain how the literary skill impacts the passage. Only three per section (Chapters 16-20) needed. Again, make sure you have a quote showing the skill.

### Theme:

A theme is a general concept or idea, such as love, justice, or sorrow. For each section, decide the theme for the section (ex. Chapters 16-20) and create a statement for it. For example – “Love conquers all” or “Secrets can eat away at the soul.” After creating your theme, explain why your statement fits the novel. **\*\*use quote(s) to support your theme statement.**

### Quotes:

Find **three (3) quotes** from that novel that you felt were significant or held importance. Remember that a quote does not have to be what someone said – a direct quote means you took the phrase word-for-word. Include the speaker (narrator, Hester, Dimmesdale, Chillingworth, etc) and what page the quote was found on. After the quote, explain why you felt the quote was significant – why did you choose it? Why do you think that it is important? What kind of impact does the quote have on the reader?  
**\*\*Remember to cite all quotes with page numbers from the novel\*\***