

The Scarlet Letter Journals

Chapters 1-5

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 1-5: ****Choose two (2)****

1. What two necessities, according to Hawthorne, must the founders of a new colony provide immediately and what do these two establishments tell you about the Puritans and their beliefs?
2. What crime as Hester Prynne committed and how do the “gossips” feel about the punishment that the magistrates have given her? In today’s society, how do people react to the same crime as Hester? Why?
3. What is Hester’s punishment? (Include both parts) What do the Puritan magistrates hope to accomplish with this punishment? Why do many think the punishment lenient? How does this public punishment happen in our society today?
4. In Chapter 3 we meet Reverend Dimmesdale. Why does he “feels responsible” that one of his “flock” has sinned? (Think about how the townspeople view him and his own “secret sin.”)
5. Hester has to keep many secrets by the end of Chapter 4. Describe the two that weigh heaviest on her heart –the secret, who does she keep the secret for, which one is a heavier burden and why.
6. In Chapter 5, Hawthorne gives reasons as to why Hester remains in Boston, even though she is free to leave. What reasons does he give and why do you think she stays? Would you stay or go?
7. After reading the first five chapters, do you think that the scarlet letter (as a punishment) is doing a good job? Why or why not? Would it work on you?

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 why the quote shows characterization

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 1-5) 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 1-5) 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?