

DON'T FORGET THE EXTRA CREDIT QUESTION! 😊

Chapter 17: The Pastor and his Parishioner

1. When Hester and Dimmesdale first see each other, why do they each ask if the other is still alive? (A weird question to ask, no? Find the moment in the text before you answer.)
2. Once they touch, why do Hester and Dimmes move together with “neither he nor she assuming the guidance, but with an unexpected consent”?
3. Whose judgment of Dimmesdale’s life are we meant to agree with, Dimmesdale’s or Hester’s? Explain your answer.
4. According to THE NOVEL, how much responsibility does HESTER bear for Dimmesdale’s suffering? Explain.
5. When Hester reveals Chillingworth’s real identity, why does Dimmesdale first blame Hester and then forgive her?
6. Are we meant to agree with Dimmes when he says that “that old man’s revenge has been blacker than my sin”? Explain.
7. Why does Hester suggest leaving Boston, and why does Dimmes agree to the plan?

Chapter 18: A Flood of Sunshine

1. When the narrator says that Hester has learned “much amiss,” what is he referring to?
2. When Hester takes off the letter, what happens? What CHANGES?
 - A. How does Hester change physically?
 - B. How does the forest change? What happens to the light?
 - C. Why do you think these changes occur? Explain what’s going on here!
3. Why does Pearl refuse to come to Hester until she puts the scarlet letter back on?
4. Why does Pearl answer her mother’s order to bring the scarlet letter to her with “Come thou and take it up!”?
5. Why does Pearl kiss the scarlet letter and then refuse to embrace Dimmesdale?!