

The Scarlet Letter Chapter 21 "The New England Holiday" New. Ed.

1. This chapter begins with a crowd that has gathered to hear Dimmesdale deliver the "Election Sermon." Why would the Puritans want the reverend to deliver a sermon on Election Day?
2. What does Pearl say about Dimmesdale on page 218?
3. Notice the depiction of the community here—it's crucial for American Studies! According to the narrator, of what ceremony in England was the Puritan Election Day pageantry a pale imitation (pages 218-219)?
4. Explain the following quote, in your own words: **"All came forth to move in procession before the people's eye, and to impart a much-needed dignity to the simple framework of a government so newly constructed" (219).**
5. What piece of unwelcome news does the master of the ship have for Hester? Why would Chillingworth want Hester to know his plan?! (p. 223)
6. What is particularly noticeable about Dimmesdale's manner as he walks in the procession?
7. Where does Hester stand during the procession and during Dimmesdale's sermon in the church?

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Chapter 22 "The Procession"

1. Describe the men in the procession and the order in which they appear. Which people appear, and in what order? Why are all these men put on parade?
2. When Hester looks at Dimmesdale now, she reacts strongly to his appearance, as she feels this Dimmesdale is different from the one she met in the forest. Describe the change. How is he different? Why does his changed appearance upset Hester so greatly? (p. 227)
3. What does Hester mean when she says to Pearl, "We must not always talk in the market-place of what happens to us in the forest"?