

FREE PRINTABLE QUIZ

The Scarlet Letter

Chapter 24

Nathaniel Hawthorne · 11 questions with a full answer key and explanations

What's inside

- **11 multiple-choice questions**, including passage analysis with the original text printed above it — the way your English class asks it.
- **Answer key** on its own page so you can take the quiz first.
- **Explanations** for every question, so a wrong answer teaches you something.
- Written from LumLysia's study edition of the book — not scraped summaries.

Took Honors English for the GPA boost, only to get crushed by Shakespearean English? Read the entire book in clear modern English—without missing the tiny details that show up on class quizzes.

Try a book free and high quality quizzes including passage analysis like in your English class.

[Read The Scarlet Letter free at lumlysia.com](https://lumlysia.com)

Start reading free →

The first 15 pages of every book are free — no card needed.

The quiz

The Scarlet Letter — Chapter 24. Answers begin on the answer key page.

PLOT & EVENT

1. What major legal action does Roger Chillingworth take prior to his death within the year following Dimmesdale's demise?

- A. He leaves his entire estate to the Puritan magistrates for the construction of a public hospital.
- B. He bequeaths a large amount of property in both New England and England to Pearl.
- C. He assigns all his wealth and medical texts to the Reverend Mr. Wilson and Governor Bellingham personally.
- D. He returns his ancestral lands in England to Hester Prynne on the condition of her lifelong penitence.

PLOT & EVENT

2. What physical evidence at the cottage indicates that Pearl survived and maintained a loving connection with Hester across the sea?

- A. A collection of signed letters and portrait miniatures preserved by the town magistrates.
- B. Official legal documents granting Hester title to an extensive estate in England.
- C. A formal royal pardon sent from the English court bearing the king's private seal.
- D. Articles of luxury, small ornaments, sealed letters with coats of arms, and an embroidered baby garment.

CHARACTER

3. According to the narrator, why does Roger Chillingworth wither and perish so rapidly after Dimmesdale's death?

- A. The physical strain of practicing necromancy and preparing potent drugs destroyed his body.
- B. His life principle was the systematic execution of revenge, leaving him purposeless once his victim died.
- C. The public uncovered his true identity and banished him from the Puritan community.
- D. He suffered overwhelming remorse for violating the sanctity of the minister's soul.

CHARACTER

4. Why does Hester Prynne ultimately choose to return to New England and resume wearing the scarlet letter of her own free will?

- A. The magistrates mandated her return to ensure the full completion of her sentence.
- B. Pearl rejected her mother after discovering the full truth of her parentage.
- C. New England was the scene of her sin and sorrow, making it the necessary place for her true penitence.
- D. She hoped to clear Arthur Dimmesdale's name among the surviving Puritan authorities.

MICRO-DETAIL

5. How did certain highly respectable spectators interpret Dimmesdale's death, denying that any mark appeared on his breast?

- A. They insisted he died of natural physical exhaustion caused by overwork in his ministry.
- B. They claimed he yielded his breath in Hester's arms as an intentional parable of the insignificance of human righteousness.
- C. They believed Chillingworth had cast a deceptive glamour over the crowd to conceal the truth.
- D. They argued Dimmesdale was murdered by agents from the Old World seeking to silence him.

MICRO-DETAIL

6. What single moral lesson does the narrator extract and formulate as the primary command from Dimmesdale's miserable experience?

- A. "Judge not, lest ye be judged by Infinite Purity!"
- B. "Cast away pride, and embrace the wisdom of grief!"
- C. "Be true! Be true! Be true! Show freely to the world, if not your worst, yet some trait whereby the worst may be inferred!"
- D. "Forgive thy brother, lest hatred consume the spirit like an unholy flame!"

MICRO-DETAIL

7. According to Hester's later teachings to the troubled women who sought her counsel, what qualities must the future prophetess of a new relationship between men and women possess?

- A. She must be tempered by decades of solitary penance and public humiliation.
- B. She must be pure, lofty, and beautiful, enlightened through the medium of ethereal joy rather than sorrow.
- C. She must belong to the highest intellectual and spiritual order of the clergy.
- D. She must carry the visible badge of earthly suffering to prove her compassion.

ANALYTICAL

8. What philosophical parallel does the narrator draw between the nature of passionate love and passionate hatred?

- A. Both passions require deception to thrive and inevitably dissolve upon public exposure.
- B. Both passions demand intimate heart-knowledge and leave the practitioner desolate when the object is removed.
- C. Both passions originate exclusively from demonic influence and corrupt mortal reasoning.
- D. Both passions are transient illusions that vanish once earthly life ends.

ANALYTICAL

9. How does the heraldic inscription on Hester and Dimmesdale's shared tombstone reinforce the central motifs of the romance?

- A. It emphasizes the complete triumph of Puritan law over earthly transgressors.
- B. It symbolizes how their shared identity and sorrow remain forever defined by an emblem of radiant guilt against dark gloom.
- C. It demonstrates their formal rehabilitation and restoration into aristocratic English heraldry.
- D. It marks the ultimate erasure of their sin in the peaceful anonymity of the grave.

READ THIS PASSAGE, THEN ANSWER

But, in the lapse of the toilsome, thoughtful, and self-devoted years that made up Hester's life, the scarlet letter ceased to be a stigma which attracted the world's scorn and bitterness, and became a type of something to be sorrowed over, and looked upon with awe, yet with reverence too. And, as Hester Prynne had no selfish ends, nor lived in any measure for her own profit and enjoyment, people brought all their sorrows and perplexities, and besought her counsel, as one who had herself gone through a mighty trouble.

PASSAGE ANALYSIS

10. In this passage, how does the community's perception of the scarlet letter evolve during Hester's later years?

- A.** It is treated as a dangerous relic of witchcraft that townspeople actively avoid.
- B.** It becomes an obsolete curiosity entirely stripped of emotional resonance.
- C.** It shifts from an emblem of public contempt into a revered symbol invoking sorrow and awe.
- D.** It is viewed as an official insignia of ecclesiastical authority granted by the magistrates.

READ THIS PASSAGE, THEN ANSWER

And, after many, many years, a new grave was delved, near an old and sunken one, in that burial-ground beside which King's Chapel has since been built. It was near that old and sunken grave, yet with a space between, as if the dust of the two sleepers had no right to mingle. Yet one tombstone served for both.

PASSAGE ANALYSIS

11. What does the spatial arrangement of the two graves beneath a single headstone signify in the passage?

- A.** A complete legal reconciliation executed by Governor Bellingham after their deaths.
- B.** An enduring separation that acknowledges their earthly transgression alongside an inseparable bond.
- C.** The community's careless disregard for proper burial customs near King's Chapel.
- D.** A final triumph of Chillingworth's vengeance over their physical remains.

Answer key

Check your answers here, then read the explanations on the next page.

1. B	2. D	3. B	4. C	5. B
6. C	7. B	8. B	9. B	10. C
11. B				

Scored it? The same quizzes are built into the LumLysia reader, chapter by chapter, with instant feedback and a practice or test mode.

Answers explained

Why the right answer is right — and what the question is really testing.

1. B. He bequeaths a large amount of property in both New England and England to Pearl.

In his last will and testament, overseen by Bellingham and Wilson, Chillingworth leaves substantial property in both England and the New World to Pearl.

2. D. Articles of luxury, small ornaments, sealed letters with coats of arms, and an embroidered baby garment.

Hester receives costly goods, tokens wrought with affection, letters bearing armorial seals, and is seen embroidering an opulent baby-garment, showing Pearl's flourishing life and continued care.

3. B. His life principle was the systematic execution of revenge, leaving him purposeless once his victim died.

The narrator explains that revenge was the foundational principle of Chillingworth's vitality; with Dimmesdale gone, his dark earthly labor was finished and his strength evaporated.

4. C. New England was the scene of her sin and sorrow, making it the necessary place for her true penitence.

The text explains that Hester's real life remained in New England because it was the site of her sin, sorrow, and continuing penitence, prompting her voluntary resumption of the symbol.

5. B. They claimed he yielded his breath in Hester's arms as an intentional parable of the insignificance of human righteousness.

These witnesses claimed Dimmesdale never confessed guilt, but staged his death in the arms of a fallen woman as a didactic lesson that all mortals are equal sinners before Infinite Purity.

6. C. “Be true! Be true! Be true! Show freely to the world, if not your worst, yet some trait whereby the worst may be inferred!”

The narrator explicitly condenses the minister's tragic tale into the imperative to 'Be true!' and allow the world to see the reality of one's flawed nature.

7. B. She must be pure, lofty, and beautiful, enlightened through the medium of ethereal joy rather than sorrow.

Hester recognizes that the divine mission cannot be fulfilled by someone stained with sin or bowed by grief, but requires a woman who is pure, beautiful, and made wise through joy.

8. B. Both passions demand intimate heart-knowledge and leave the practitioner desolate when the object is removed.

The narrator notes that love and hatred are fundamentally similar because each requires intense intimacy and creates a total spiritual dependence on the other person.

9. B. It symbolizes how their shared identity and sorrow remain forever defined by an emblem of radiant guilt against dark gloom.

The heraldic device ('ON A FIELD, SABLE, THE LETTER A, GULES') serves as an engraving where the glowing red letter provides the sole, somber illumination amidst total blackness, encapsulating their lives.

10. C. It shifts from an emblem of public contempt into a revered symbol invoking sorrow and awe.

The passage details how Hester's selfless and devoted life transformed the badge from an object of scorn and bitterness into a source of awe, reverence, and comfort for the suffering.

11. B. An enduring separation that acknowledges their earthly transgression alongside an inseparable bond.

The physical separation between the graves implies that their dust cannot mingle due to guilt/sanctity, yet sharing one tombstone demonstrates their eternal, unified fate.

Keep going — the whole book, in modern English

Took Honors English for the GPA boost, only to get crushed by Shakespearean English? Read the entire book in clear modern English—without missing the tiny details that show up on class quizzes.

Try a book free and high quality quizzes including passage analysis like in your English class.

[Read The Scarlet Letter free at lumlysia.com](https://lumlysia.com)

What a LumLysia membership includes

- The complete text side by side with a clear modern translation — or modern only, your choice.
- Literary lens annotations already done for you (feminist, psychoanalytic, historical, formalist, reader-response).
- Chapter recaps and timelines so you never lose the thread.
- Quizzes for every chapter, including passage analysis, with practice and test modes.
- Quote finder, essay helper and a chat tutor that only talks about your book.

Free: the first 15 pages of every book — no card needed.

\$9.99 / month — every book, every tool, cancel anytime.

\$24.99 / semester (4 months) — the cheaper way if your class runs all term. Students with a school email get 20% off the semester pass.

Try a book free →

[Browse every book in the library · lumlysia.com](https://lumlysia.com)

Share this PDF with your class — it's free.