

The Scarlet Letter TEST

True/False (2 pts. each)

Indicate whether the statement is true or false.

- _____ 1. The main action of *The Scarlet Letter* takes place in Boston.
- _____ 2. The Puritans allowed citizens to worship as they please.
- _____ 3. Chillingworth escaped the Indian captivity by drugging his captors.
- _____ 4. No one but Dimmesdale sees the red "A" in the sky above the market place.
- _____ 5. Hester's needlework is highly sought after in the town
- _____ 6. Chillingworth secretly provides Hester with money to take care of Pearl.
- _____ 7. Chillingworth did not have any skill or experience in practicing medicine.
- _____ 8. Pearl is overjoyed when Hester removes the scarlet letter.
- _____ 9. Pearl impresses the Rev. Wilson and the Governor with her biblical knowledge.
- _____ 10. The time span of *The Scarlet Letter* is three years.
- _____ 11. The Black Man represents the devil or one of his demons.
- _____ 12. Dimmesdale and Hester plan to run away and live in the wilderness among the Indians.
- _____ 13. Mistress Hibbins is also aware of Dimmesdale's sin.
- _____ 14. Chillingworth leaves all of his estate (worldly possessions) to Pearl in his will.
- _____ 15. Hester and Pearl stays in Boston after Dimmesdale confesses his sin.

Multiple Choice (2 pts. each)

Identify the choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.

- _____ 16. According to *The Scarlet Letter*, new settlements must establish at the beginning of the colony a cemetery and
 - a. an orphanage
 - b. a prison
 - c. a place of execution
 - d. a town hall
- _____ 17. According to _____, the magistrates are too lenient in the punishment of Hester.
 - a. Chillingworth
 - b. Dimmesdale
 - c. one of the elderly women of the town
 - d. Mistress Hibbins
- _____ 18. After their separation of two years, the first time Hester sees Chillingworth again is
 - a. when he visits her in jail
 - b. she sees him in the market place crown around the scaffold
 - c. when he goes to the balcony and shouts for her to reveal the father of her child
 - d. they accidentally meet in the graveyard
- _____ 19. The three most important scenes in this novel take place
 - a. in the Governor's house
 - b. in the forest
 - c. in the prison
 - d. on the scaffold

- _____ 20. The scarlet letter that Hester wears represents her sin, adultery. It is
a. an alliteration c. a symbol
b. a metaphor d. personification
- _____ 21. Although Hester's husband calls himself Chillingworth in Boston, his real last name is
a. Dimmesdale c. Prynne
b. the Black man d. Winthrop
- _____ 22. The period in which the main action occurs in *The Scarlet Letter* is
a. 1850-1857 c. 1642-1649
b. 1942-1949 d. 1730-1739
- _____ 23. The only punishment **NOT** given to Hester for the crime of adultery was
a. standing on the scaffold c. forced to wear a scarlet letter
b. whipping d. time spent in jail
- _____ 24. During Hester's first meeting with Chillingworth, Hester
a. blames him for staying away c. suggests that they resume their marriage
b. begs his forgiveness d. asks if he is going to harm her baby
- _____ 25. What is the promise that Hester makes to Chillingworth?
a. One day she will reveal her lover's name. c. She and Pearl will leave to save him from embarrassment.
b. She will remain faithful from now on. d. She will not reveal his identity to the people of Boston.
- _____ 26. At the beginning of Chapter 7, the Governor's House, Hester goes to the governor's house to deliver
a. a note with the name of Pearl's father c. the results of an election
b. a pair of gloves d. alms for the poor
- _____ 27. When they enter the governor's home, Pearl becomes mesmerized by
a. a suit of armor c. the adults
b. the servant's child d. her blue dress
- _____ 28. Hester can keep Pearl if she agrees to
a. not be in another scandal c. allow Pearl to be educated about the *Bible*
b. send Pearl to Sunday school d. all of these
- _____ 29. Hester supports herself and Pearl primarily through
a. gathering nuts and food in the forest c. doing whatever work she can get
b. making medicine from wild herbs d. sewing garments for the townspeople
- _____ 30. The story suggests that the letter "A" is
a. a sign of Hester's crime c. a source of anguish for Hester
b. a symbol of pride for the women of the town d. both A & C
- _____ 31. Hester calls the child Pearl because the baby is
a. is the calm, white luster of a pearl c. is named after Hester's mother
b. was purchased at a great price d. shines and brings peace to Hester
- _____ 32. Pearl can best be described as
a. a warm, loving child c. a wild child who follows no rules but her own
b. a fun-loving, happy child d. a very wise and model child

- _____ 33. At the Governor's Hall, Pearl tells Rev. Wilson that
- a. her father is dead
 - b. she has no father
 - c. God made her
 - d. she wasn't made, but plucked from a rose bush
- _____ 34. In her forest meeting with Dimmesdale, Hester symbolizes her intention to begin a new life by
- a. dancing among the flowers with Dimmesdale
 - b. throwing away her scarlet letter
 - c. dressing Pearl in scarlet
 - d. hugging and kissing Pearl and Dimmesdale
- _____ 35. The change in the public attitude toward Hester causes their interpretation of the letter "A" to be
- a. Arthur
 - b. able
 - c. angel
 - d. adultery
- _____ 36. The attitude of the people toward Hester changes because
- a. she reveals the name of her partner in sin
 - b. she helps others in their time of need
 - c. they discover another adulterer
 - d. they are charmed by Pearl
- _____ 37. Hester meets Dimmesdale in the forest to
- a. beg him to reveal his sin publicly
 - b. to reveal the true identity of Chillingworth
 - c. give Pearl a chance to know her father
 - d. beg him to raise Pearl
- _____ 38. Pearl torments Hester in the forest by saying that _____ does not love her.
- a. the sunshine
 - b. herself (Pearl)
 - c. God
 - d. the reverend
- _____ 39. When Hester reveals the true identity of Chillingworth, Dimmesdale says
- a. he will immediately run away
 - b. he can never forgive her
 - c. he wants to kill Chillingworth
 - d. she is the source of his greatest misery
- _____ 40. What does Pearl continue to ask, which annoys Hester
- a. "Why do you wear the "A" mother?"
 - b. "Who is my father?"
 - c. "Who is the Black Man?"
 - d. "Who is Chillingworth?"
- _____ 41. Before he sails to England with Hester, Dimmesdale decides he must
- a. win Pearl's love
 - b. make amends to Hester
 - c. confess his sin publicly
 - d. deliver his last Election sermon
- _____ 42. The news that the sea captain gives Hester that shocks her is that
- a. Dimmesdale canceled his ticket
 - b. he cannot take them unless he gets more money
 - c. Chillingworth will also be sailing with them
 - d. the ship cannot sail for a month
- _____ 43. When Hester sees Dimmesdale in the Election Day procession, she feels
- a. happy because he is happy
 - b. sad because he is ill and weak
 - c. sad because he is remote and detached
 - d. relief because he acknowledges
- _____ 44. While running around the market place during the procession, Pearl is given a message from _____ to take to her mother.
- a. Dimmesdale
 - b. Mistress Hibbins
 - c. Chillingworth
 - d. the sea captain

Name: _____

ID: A

- _____ 45. As Dimmesdale walks to the scaffold to make what turns out to be his confession, who says to him: “Madman, hold! What is your purpose? All shall be well. Don not blacken your fame and perish your honor. I can yet save you! Would you bring infamy on your sacred profession?”
- a. Rev. Wilson
 - b. Chillingworth
 - c. Hester
 - d. Pearl
- _____ 46. What act breaks the spell on Pearl and makes her capable of joy?
- a. kissing the cheek of her dying father
 - b. taking the minister’s hand in public
 - c. hugging her mother and sharing sorrow
 - d. all of the above
- _____ 47. Until his confession, the only people besides Dimmesdale and Hester who know of their sin is
- a. Wilson
 - b. Gov. Bellingham
 - c. his landlady
 - d. Mistress Hibbins
- _____ 48. During the course of the novel, Hester removes the scarlet letter from her dress
- a. only once
 - b. never
 - c. only on holidays
 - d. only in church
- _____ 49. After Dimmesdale’s death, Chillingworth
- a. goes back to England
 - b. loses the energy and will to live
 - c. is finally able to forgive the minister
 - d. becomes a doctor in the Indian wilderness
- _____ 50. As Dimmesdale stands upon the scaffold and confesses his sin to the people, he also reveals
- a. that Chillingworth is the Black Man
 - b. that Hester is with child again
 - c. their plans to leave Boston
 - d. the burning symbol on his chest