

**Chapters 1 – 3****Comprehension Check**

*Directions: As you read each chapter, answer the following questions on a separate piece of paper using complete sentences.*

**Chapter 1**

1. What does Hawthorne describe in detail in this first chapter? Write a short description of it in your own words.
2. What were the first two things the Puritans built upon arriving to the new colony? What does this reveal about the needs and views of Puritan culture?
3. What does the narrator say he hopes the rose bush will symbolize? In your own words, what can you predict about the ending of the novel based upon this statement?

**Chapter 2**

1. Why are all the townspeople gathered in the center of town?
2. Describe how the women in New England are different from the generations of women before them.
3. What is Hester Prynne's relationship to Arthur Dimmesdale?
4. Describe Hester Prynne.
5. What is Hester's crime? What does the letter A stand for?
6. Why were the women upset when they saw Hester's embroidered letter?
7. What is the scaffold? What is it used for?
8. What is on Hester's mind as she serves out the first part of her punishment?

**Chapter 3**

1. What does Hester notice immediately about the strange man being accompanied by an Indian?
2. What gesture does the stranger make to Hester when he realizes that she recognizes him?
3. What does the stranger tell one of the townspeople about himself?
4. What does the townsman tell the stranger about Hester's crime? What do we learn about Hester's husband?
5. Describe Reverend Dimmesdale.
6. What do the magistrates and ministers want Hester to tell them? What does she do?
7. What does Dimmesdale do and say after Hester firmly states that she will not reveal the name of her lover?