

Chapters 4 – 6

Comprehension Check

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

Chapter 4

1. Why was Hester placed under constant watch when she returned to the prison?
2. What is the stranger's name and what is his relationship to Hester?
3. Chillingworth says that he and Hester have both wronged each other. What is his reasoning behind this?
4. What does he ask Hester to promise him? Why do you think he asks this of her?
5. What does he promise to do if Hester does not freely reveal the name of her lover?
6. What is Chillingworth's response when Hester asks him why he won't just announce himself and cast her off?

Chapter 5

1. Why does Hester decide to stay close to her town instead of going back to Europe or joining another community?
2. How does Hester make money? (What is her gift?)
3. What is ironic about the townspeople's willingness to purchase Hester's creations?
4. How does Hester dress and act?
5. How is she treated by the townspeople? Who does she dread the most? Why?
6. What happens when Hester looks into the eyes of the townspeople who stare at the scarlet letter on her bosom?

Chapter 6

1. Why did Hester name her child "Pearl"?
2. Describe how Pearl is dressed. What reason is given for the way Pearl is dressed?
3. What thoughts does Hester have about Pearl? How does Pearl react to punishment?
4. What is Pearl's relationship with the other children of the town? Why do you believe this is so?
5. Who are Pearl's playmates? What does she do to entertain herself?
6. Do you think Hester is a martyr, or do you think her repentance is sincere? Explain.