"The Minister's Black Veil" by Nathaniel Hawthorne
Open-Book Test

Short Answer Write your responses to the questions in this section on the lines provided.

1. Early in "The Minister's Black Veil," Hawthorne shows the reader the reactions of the townspeople to the minister's veil. What moral is Hawthorne trying to communicate to the reader by describing these responses?

2. As the parishioners listen to Mr. Hooper's sermon in "The Minister's Black Veil," they feel a stronger power from his words than from previous sermons. How do the parishioners react? What difference does the veil make in how they react?

3. After the funeral in "The Minister's Black Veil," two of the townspeople have a "fancy"—a feeling or vision—that the minister and the spirit of the dead woman are "walking hand in hand." What inference about the beliefs of these two women can you draw from this imagined moment?

4. Near the beginning of "The Minister's Black Veil," find the paragraph that contains the word inanimate. Which word in the same sentence gives you a clue to the meaning of inanimate by providing a contrasting, or opposite, meaning?

5. In "The Minister's Black Veil," Hawthorne uses the townspeople to symbolize the faults he sees in many people. Cite three faults symbolized by the townspeople that Hawthorne highlights in the story.
6. In “The Minister’s Black Veil,” Hawthorne gives Elizabeth a different character from that of the townspeople. From her conversation with Mr. Hooper about his veil, what primary value can you infer is part of Elizabeth’s character?

7. In the exchange between Mr. Hooper and Elizabeth in “The Minister’s Black Veil,” find and read the sentence that contains the word obstinacy. Which phrase in the sentence gives you a clue to the meaning of the word obstinacy? Which word would you suggest as a synonym?

8. Read each quotation from “The Minister’s Black Veil” on the left side of the chart below. Each quote suggests a possibility for the symbolic meaning of the black veil. Use the right side of the chart to write what the possible meaning of the veil is for each of the quotes. Each quote provides a different possibility.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quotation</th>
<th>Meaning of the Veil</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“[the veil] threw its obscurity between it and the holy page as he read the Scriptures;”</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Were the veil but cast aside, [the townspeople] might speak freely of it, but not till then.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>“This dismal shade must separate me from the world; even you, Elizabeth, can never come behind it!”</td>
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9. Toward the end of “The Minister’s Black Veil,” read the paragraph beginning “Among all its bad influences. . . .” Explain the one beneficial result of the veil and the message that Hawthorne may be trying to communicate.

10. At the end of “The Minister’s Black Veil,” the reader learns that Elizabeth has acted as Mr. Hooper’s nurse all the years after she refused to marry him. What can you infer from this description of Elizabeth’s behavior?