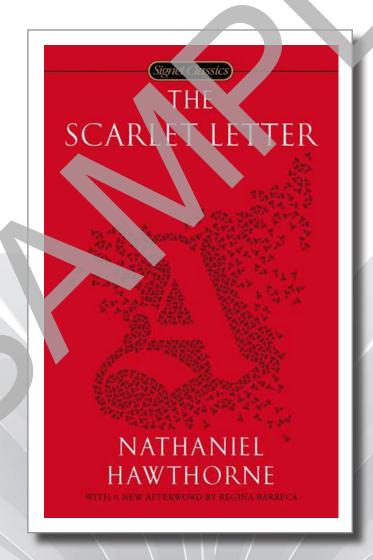


GRADES 9-12

The Scarlet Letter

Nathaniel Hawthorne



READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

The Scarlet Letter

Nathaniel Hawthorne

STUDENT PACKET

NOTE:

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website.

Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

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The Scarlet Letter Activity #3: Vocabulary Chapters 7-12

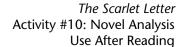
Directions: The vocabulary words from Chapters 7-12 will be divided among you and your classmates so that each student is responsible for two of the words. Write your words on the maps below. Then complete the word map for each word. Maps may be shared in small groups or with the whole class.

Synonyms:	Definition:
Word Used in a Sentence:	
Synonyms:	Definition:
Word #2:	
Word Used in a Sentence:	

vuinc	Vocabulary • 6
plebeian 212	
preternaturally 213	
mien 213	
festal 216	
jocularity 217	
depredations 219	
animadversion 219	
galliard 219	
Chapters 22-24	
comprised 221	
clarion 221	
morions 222	
necromancy 225	
indefatigable 228	
disquietude 228	
pathos 232	
apotheosized 233	
lurid 237	
escutcheon 245	
gules 245	

The Scarlet Letter

Name_____



Name_____

In all novels, stories, and plays, certain events or characters' actions (causes) lead to other events and actions (effects), which then <u>cause</u> other events and actions, and so forth. Many times, characters' decisions are what determine the outcome of the story.

Directions: In each of the maps below, indicate the decision actually made by the character, and summarize the outcome. Then suggest an alternate decision that <u>could</u> have been made, and summarize the probable outcome of that decision.

Situation: Chillingworth must decide if he will disclose his identity to the townspeople.		
Decision Made:	Alternate Decision:	
Outcome:	Probable Outcome:	

Chapters 7-9

- 20. What two purposes does Hester have for visiting the Governor's mansion?
- 21. At the end of Chapter 7, why is Pearl crying?
- 22. Who intercedes for Hester in the matter of Pearl's custody?
- 23. What does Mistress Hibbins ask Hester to do?
- 24. A close association develops between Chillingworth and Dimmesdale. Why does Chillingworth seek this association?
- 25. How had Chillingworth gained some of his knowledge of herbs?
- 26. What conclusion regarding Dimmesdale does Chillingworth reach?

Chapters 10-12

- 27. What do you think Chillingworth sees when he secretly enters the minister's room? What effect does this incident have on the physician?
- 28. What secret practices did the minister engage in as a result of the "immoral troubles" that beset him? Why do you think he was doing this?
- 29. As Hester had once done, Dimmesdale ascends the scaffold. At what time of day does he do this? What compels his action?
- 30. Pearl, now seven, begins to display the quality of intuition. Give a few examples.
- 31. What guess would you make about the sight that made Chillingworth throw up his hands and stamp with joy? (refer to question 27)
- 32. How is Chapter 11 significant to the theme of the novel?

Chapters 13-15

- 33. How has the attitude of the townspeople toward Hester changed during the seven years since her "crime" was committed? Why has this change occurred?
- 34. How does Chillingworth respond to Hester's plea that he change his course of action?
- 35. What questions does Pearl keep asking? Why does Hester reply as she does?
- 36. What inner changes in Chillingworth's character are made evident to Hester from his outward appearance? In what sense has he undertaken the devil's office?
- 37. Hawthorne's use of color imagery often has symbolic importance. Three color references are worth observing in these chapters. (a) In Chapter 14, find references to red. (b) At the end of Chapter 14, what is the "black flower"? What contrast with another flower is suggested? (c) Pearl constructs and wears a letter of her own. What is suggested by the color and material of her "A"?
- 38. What is your opinion of Hester as a parent?