

The Scarlet Letter Vocabulary: Chapters 21-24

Chapter 21: The New England Holiday

Plebeian: lower class, poor

Quaff: drink

Languor: weariness, inactivity

Lees: literally, the pulp left at the bottom of the barrel or wine bottle

Effervescence: liveliness, exhilaration

Mirthful: joyful, happy

Jocularity: happiness, sense of fun

Interpose: step in between

Posterity: What will follow, especially one's descendants, what one leaves behind when one dies

Relinquish: hand over, give up

Desperado: outlaw

Berth: bed on a train or boat

Eminent: famous, highly respected

Apothecary: druggist

Chapter 22: The Procession

Ministrations: healing actions (usually of a nurse or doctor)

Cordial: Mixed drink usually including alcohol

Necromancy: contacting the dead, especially to learn the future

Repose: sleep, rest

Erratic: unsteady, unpredictable, changeable

Unscrupulous: dishonest

Chapter 23: The Revelation of the Scarlet Letter

Foreboding: feeling of dread of what's to come

Apotheosized: elevation to heavenly status

Tremulously: timidly, trembling

Solemnity: seriousness

Chapter 24: Conclusion

Conjectural: suspected but not absolutely proven, deduced from some evidence but not certain

Portent: a sign of what's to come (like clouds before a storm)

Nugatory: unimportant, not powerful

Escutcheon: the place (often over a door to a house or castle) that displays the family crest or symbol

Name _____

The Scarlet Letter Chapters 21-24 Due Oct 20 by class

Chapter 21: The New England Holiday

1. What does Pearl say and feel about Dimmesdale, and how does Hester respond to her? Which character's view do you think is closer to Hawthorne's?

2. What do we learn about the Puritans from the comparison to the Spanish sailors?

3. What does Hester learn from the mariner, and how does she seem to feel about it? What might the author be suggesting based on her discovery?

Chapter 22: The Procession

1. How does Dimmesdale appear to Hester? How does she feel about this?

2. What does the townswoman say to Hester? What does she reveal about herself?

3. How does Hester experience the sermon?

4. What does Hester learn from the mariner? How do these sailors and surrounding Indians perceive Hester?

Chapter 23: The Revelation of the Scarlet Letter

1. How are the situations of Hester and Dimmesdale contrasted *after* the sermon?

2. What does Dimmesdale do? How does Chillingworth get involved?

3. How is Pearl's response to Dimmesdale different? Why?

Chapter 24: Conclusion

1. What theories are presented about the origin of what "spectators testified" to as a disfiguration on the minister's breast?

2. What happens to Chillingworth, and, according to the narrator, why?

3. What happens to Hester and Pearl?