**Chapter 5**

1. How is Hester’s emergence from the prison at the end of her confinement different

from her emergence on the day she stood in public humiliation?

When she walked out during her public humiliation, she walked out with pride. However, this time, she felt that “the sunshine .. to her sick and morbid heart”. This shows that during the Hester’s humiliation, she was fighting against the crowd, allowing her to be distracted from the guilt. Now she is buy her self, she is starting the really feel the sense of guilt. This shows that Hester firstly is a strong woman, as she is able to combat the pressure from the society the first time she walkout out of the jail. It also shows the goodness inside her heart, as the humiliation of the society failed to move her, but the humiliation she is feeling

2. What traditional dichotomy does Hawthorne begin to establish with the location

of Hester’s cottage?

Hawthorne contrasts the human society and nature when establishing the place where Hester lives. With nature being a common symbol for goodness in the romantic era, this comparison connects Hester with nature, and separates the society on the side of unnatural. This characterizes Hester as a nice person, while characterizing the society as a whole as the opposite.

3. Give two reasons why Hester decides to remain instead of moving to a less-

restrictive colony.

While Hester feels the pressure from the society, Hester does not want to completely cut ties with the society. This is because she grew up in the puritan society, and even though now she has moved toward the side of nature, she still agrees with most of the ideologies of the puritan society. Thus, she considers herself as guilty.

4. How do the townspeople treat Hester, and how does she react?   
 The towns people often insults Hester, with Hester forgiving them, and trading her needle work without considering the treatment she is receiving from the towns people. This continues from the previous comparison between nature and the human society. With Hester representing the nature, she is forgiving all the sins of the towns people, sins of treating her badly and not giving back for her niceness, while the townspeople continue to keep their judgment on Hester.

5. How does Hester’s character evolve?

Hester’s character evolves through the treatment of Hester by the towns people. With the town people treating her poorly, she still remains kind to them, and giving to the society. This firstly shows that she is a strong woman, as her inner self is not easily affected by the views of society. It also shows her goodness, as she is still willing to help poor people and provide cloths to the despite being treated badly.

6. Describe the difference between Hester’s clothing and her child’s

Hester wears very bland clothing while her child wears very luxurious clothing with bright colors. Her child is a symbol for representing Hester’s inner self. While Hester is constrained by the society’s view on her, as she believes that she is sinned, her inner-self appreciates the beauty of fabric and fasion, and dresses herself beautifully. This again shows how the puritan society constrains an individual’s ability to think independently and how dependant one’s thought is on the opinion of the society.

7. What point is Hawthorne making about an individual’s ability to separate oneself

from one’s wrongdoings?

Hawthorne makes the point of the stubbornness of the puritan society. The world ignores Hester’s talent on needle work, and only looks upon her by her sins. This stubbornness caused all of the people in the society to treat her badly, despite her effort of doing right things. No matter what Hester did, she was not able to change her image in the publics mind. This thus shows how people only knows to repeat the dominant ideology of the society and lacks individual thinking skills upon a situation.

8. Where do Hawthorne’s sympathies lie? How do you know?

Hawtorne sympathies lie at the end of the chapter, when she talks about how people were linking the Scarlet letter with horror.

**Chapter 6**

1. What, according to the narrator, is ironic about Pearl’s existence?

Pearl is the product of Hester convicting the crime of adultery. Thus, Pearl should represent her sin. However, Pearl was given beauty, as if she was approved by the heavenly father. This is ironic because with Pearl being approved by the heavenly father, Hester’s sins are also forgiven, which is against what the puritans believe. This firstly hints again that there are more reasons of why Hester have committed adultery. It also suggests that the puritan society’s judgment is commonly false.

1. What is the significance of Pearl’s name?

Pearl was named not because of her appearance, though she maybe described as beautiful as a pearl, it is named after the great price that came. Pearl have caused Hester’s honor and almost her life, as she is a consequence of her adultery. This great price to Hester is like a pearl, which also costs a great price. Given the circumstance, Pearl is extremely important to Hester, as she is her only purpose of staying alive – looking after her child.

3. What is significant about Pearl’s temperament?   
 Pearl has quite the bad temperament. She does not like to fallow the rules of the puritan society. This is similar to the inner-self of Hester. While she generally believes in the puritan society’s beliefs, she does have doubts on what she believes. Pearl is thus a symbol for Hester’s inner-self, especially since she is her child. Pearl’s bad temperament toward the ideologies of the society thus shows Hester’s doubt toward the ideology of the society, but the education she have receive is trying to convince her that it is her that is wrong.

4. Explain the ambiguity concerning Pearl’s background.

Pearl’s real father is unknown.

5. Hester believes that, while society punishes her for sinning, God has a different

reaction. How does Hester explain Pearl’s existence?

Hester remembers the townspeople’s rumor that Pearl was the child of a demon. It is common of such rumor occurring according to the narrator to the child of sinful mothers. Pearl openly rejects the heavenly father to be his father. This is literally true because his mother committed adultery and thus is father is not heavenly. But by making this statement, she is also rejecting the religious idea of a heavenly father. Since Pearl is a symbol of the inner-self of Hester, this shows that Hester is starting to have doubts to the religion which she believes in.

**Chapter 7**

1. How sincerely concerned are the townspeople of Salem for the souls of Hester

and Pearl?

The townspeople is not really concerned about the souls of Hester and Pearl. This can be seen from how they often treat Hester and Pearly very badly. This shows the forgivingness of the puritan society, as they do not forgive Hester of her sins even though it does not even directly affect them.

 2. Compare the Governor’s garden with gardens in Old England. What is significant

about the difference?

The Governor’s garden have cabbages growing in plain sight, and pumpkin vine stretching all the way across the path and dropping a pumpkin directly beneath the window. This shows that the Governor is not as traditional as people might intuitively think him to be, as his garden does not fallow the traditional rules of Old English Gardens.

1. How is Pearl dressed, and what is her dress compared to?

Pearl is dressed luxuriously in a red skirt. This is compared to a rosebush. The rosebush was used in the beginning of the story to represent Hester when she was kept in prison. This draws a connection between Pearl and Hester. With the acknowledgement that Pearl is used as a symbol to represent Hester’s inner-self, this metaphor verifies that connection. It also shows how Pearl is different from all the other child at her age, which are represented by the leaves surrounding the rose bush. Pearl has very much inherited Hester’s ideology, but without the barrier of the implanted puritan view in Hester’s case.

1. Where else have we seen a rose bush in this novel?

See paragraph above.

1. What was its significance then?

See paragraph above above.

1. Does it maintain the same significance here?

See paragraph above above above.

**Chapter 8**

1. Explain the Puritan attitude toward luxury and how Governor Bellingham and the

Reverend John Wilson responded to it.

Puritan generally dislike luxurious items because it goes against their societal belief. However, Governor Bellingham’s house can be seen to be very luxurious, with more than enough expensive decorations. John Wilson does not judge Bellinghamon the luxuriousness of his house but instead pays attiention to the fruits, suggesting that oears and peaches might be transplanted to new England. This shows that the dislike of luxury only happens in lower classes, and while higher classes people might pretend that the do not like luxury, they secretly make their life very luxurious and enjoyable. This shows two aspects of the puritan society. Firstly, it shows that extreme power often twist an individual’s mindset, and they value personal enjoyment more than their beliefs. Also, it shows that the hate toward luxury is likely just an excuse for people who are not able to afford luxurious items. They claim that they do not like luxury because they are not able to obtain luxury. This can be linked to Hester’s situation, where she is afraid of wearing luxurious items. She does not wear them because she believes that she is sinned, but to other people in the society, if she wears luxurious clothing, it may seem like an insult to them, as even people who are sinned are able to afford better things then them.

2. How do the magistrates react to Pearl and why?

The magistrate first react to Pearl with thinking that she is a nice child. They first praises her of her beauty, and her naiveness as a child. Something significant to mark is that their description of Pearl is very similar to how Hester described Pearl in the previous chapters:

3. How does Hester behave towards the magistrates and why?

Hester is very cautious and careful in front of the magistrates. This is not only because that magistrates is positioned higher in the social hierarchy, but also because that she is a sinned person. Since she has a child, she is afraid of her punishment affecting her child, Pearl.

4. Why does Hester feel that Arthur Dimmsdale should speak on her behalf?

Dimmsdale is the father of the child. This have been foreshadowed multiple times before.

5. Why would Hawthorne have Pearl perform such an uncharacteristically tender

action?

This oddity of Pearl’s action draws a connection between Pearl and Dimmsdale, which foreshadows that Dimmsdale is Pearl’s father. It also shows that Hester still has appreciation towards Dimmsdale, as Pearl, the representation of Hester’s inner-self, shows appreciation towards Dimmsdale, especially after Dimmsdale spoke to protect the family from breaking apart.

1. What does Chillingworth note about Dimmsdale’s defense of Hester?

Chillingworth notes that Mr Dimmsdale is speaking with “strange conviction”. He is suspicious of Dimmsdale’s defence of Hester. This develops plot as Dimmsdale was just previously foreshadowed to be the father of Pearl. This rising action builds for the climax of the story, quite possibly when Dimmsdale’s true identity is exposed.

1. Describe how Dimmsdale has changed since Hester’s public punishments.

Dimmsdale has became more settle, and also became less healthy. This is likely because he have the sickness of guilt, and feels back for publicly questioning Hester for the father of the child with Hester being quite about it.

1. Describe how Chillingworth has changed over the last few years.

Chillingworth has obtained a high position in the society. He was described to be uglier, darker and misshapen. This shows that he is corrupted with evilness, and he does not care about Hester and her child anymore over him self.

1. What would Physiognomy suggest about Dimmsdale and Chillingworth?

Physiognomy suggests that Chillingworth have became more corrupted and evil while Dimmsdale have been affected by the consiquences of his actions.

10. Why would Hawthorne want to include Mistress Hibbins as a minor character in

this book?

Hawthorne includes Mistress Hibbins as a minor character for the sake of plot development. Mistress Hibbins represents evilness as she is a witch. Hester’s line shows that she might have gone to the evil side if it was not for Pearl, her inner-self, who helped her reamin good.