**Chapter 9**

1. **Why doesn’t Chillingworth assert his rights as Hester’s husband?**

**Chillingworth does not assert his rights as Hester’s husband because he has cut ties with his past. Just like the story that he made up of his death from the boat, he is trying to disassociate himself from his experiences from the past. The cause of this is that he cannot stand the shame that comes from claiming his identity. However, by avoiding the shame, he places the burden of all the consequences on the shoulder of Hester. This caused his future to be “dark, its is true, if no guilty”.**

**2. A difference of opinions arises over the cause of Dimmsdale’s failing health.**

**Compare the townspeople’s opinion to Dimmsdale’s.**

**The townpople think that Dimmsdale’s health issue is caused by him over working, and not having enough rest. Dimmsdale think that his sickness is caused by god and that he have done something wrong. As the readers will later on know, he is the father of pearl. This connection shows that the real cause of the sickness is the guilt that he is feeling within him, especially he is such a religious man, which is slowly eating up his elixir of life. This shows the irony of the puritan world. Everyone have sins, but most of then rejects the existance of their own sins and focuses on the sins of other people, This sick-causing behavior is also reflected by the overall grey mood of their closing, which while is boring, also reflect a sense of sickness and lack of energy within the society.**

**3. Why does Dimmsdale reject Chillingworth’s offer of help? What finally**

**persuades him to accept the offer?**

**Dimmsdale rejects Chillingworth’s offer because he does not want him to know about his secrets. Chillingworth described him as strangely private, as while they grew close later on, Dimmsdale never talk about the causes of his sickness, which Chillingworth suspect has a psychological cause. His excuse however, was that “were it god’s will”, which is probably the actual cause of his sickness. This is because since he have left all of the consequences of his actions on Hester, he feels a sense of guilt, and the sickness is the punishment that god have placed on him. He does not want to cure it, because believing that this is his punishment relieves him a bit by decreasing his guilt on the situation. What made him finally agree to the treatment was the doctor’s words: good men will always think too little of themselves.” This likely made Dimmsdale feel a sense of warmth from the society, that someone actually cared about him. This again reflects the coldness of the puritan society**

**4. Explain the ambiguity of the chapter’s title, “The Leech.”**

**Leech is worm like creatures that attaches to other animals and sucks out their blood. This is reflecting the nature of the puritan society: people with higher position are like leeches. They are constantly sucking the blood out of the society, which lower class people worked very hard for. Not only this, they also look down upon the lower class people in the society. This shows the corrupt nature of the puritan society. Every one while being sinful for leeching onto the hard work of other people, they do not realize their own sins, and take other people’s action for granted. This can also be seen from how Hester is treated by the townspeople, with them treating her badly despite her giving to the people in the society.**

**5. The passage sets up an interesting contrast between two types of men. What is this contrast, and how is it likely to shape the future of the novel?**

**6. Describe Chillingwoth’s method for treating illness.**

**Instead of giving Dimmesdale medicine, Chillingworth have decided to communicate to Dimmesdale about what have happened in his life. This shows that he is actually quite an experienced doctor, as he is able to quickly identify the real cause of Dimmesdale’s sickness.**

**7. Describe the relationship between Dimmsdale and Chillingworth.**

**Dimmesdale and Chillingworth have become very good friends. They constantly talk to each other, and communicate their ideas on different things. However, this being said, Dimmesdale still does not completely trust Chillingworth, as he still keeps some parts of his life a secret, and never talks to him about the cause of his mental illness.**

**8. Some people in the community feel that God sent Chillingworth to heal their**

**minister, but other people have a different view. Explain the second view about Chillingworth.**

**Since Chillingworth have a history of learning from native American people, many townspeople think that he is unreliable. This caused them to believe that Chillingworth is bringing evilness to Dimmesdale, which is causing his sickness to worsten.**

**9. How do the people explain “the gloom and terror in the depths of the poor**

**minister’s eyes”?**

**The gloom and terror in the depth of the poor minister’s eyes is describing the state of the minister’s health. This indicates that the minister is getting worse day by day. This is likely because with Chillingworth actively trying to find out the thing that is troubling Dimmesdale, their conversation is evoking his guilt and fear of being exposed. This thus increase the preasure which he feels, which is also the fundamental cause of his sickness. This is verifying Chillingworth’s statement at the beginning of the story in the prison cell with Hester, where he clams that he will get revenge to what Hester have done to him, but on the father of the Child.**

**10. What is suggested by the names Chillingworth and Dimmsdale?**

**The name Dimmesdale is foreshadowing something bad is going to happen to him, and Chillingworth’s name foreshadows his success.**

**Chapter 10**

1. What is suspicious about Dimmsdale’s position in his debate with Chillingworth

about sin?

Dimmesdale repeatedly talks about the guilt that comes from the sin. This makes his speech really suspiscious because it sounds quite personal, as if he is actually experiencing the guilt that come from hiding sins.

1. How do the black flowers initiate a discussion on hidden sins?

The black flowers represents punishment. They grow on the tombs out side of the room which Dimmesdale and Chillingworth is speaking in. They talked about it springing up from a buried heart to reveal the hidden crime. This shows that while punishment is bad, Dimmesdale believes that guilt is a worse punishment. This is especially because he is really religious, and strongly buys the puritan belief. Pearl also places black flowers around the scarlet letter on Hester’s chest. This is showing that Hester is receiving the punishment for her sins, which is represented by the scarlet letter. However, different from Dimmesdale, Hester is positioned outside with nature, as nature as forgiven her sins for her willingness of receiving the consequences of her action. On the other side, Dimmesdale cowardly avoids receiving the punishment, and thus he is sick in a room next to the evil person that wants to seek revenge on him.

3. How does Dimmsdale’s rationale for the confessing a hidden sin support he

doctrine of salvation by works rather than salvation by faith?

Dimmesdale strongly believes in god, and he does feel bad for have performed sinful actions in the past. He have of course reflected mentally, as he is a religious person. However, when directly compared to Hester, who was put to public shames by his own hands, he does not think that he has done enough to redeem himself from the sins that he possesses. This shows that he believes in salvation by work, as salvation by faith have left regrets and guilt within his heart, which is poisoning his health.

4. What metaphors does Hawthorne establish for Chillingworth’s probe? How do

they further define Chillingworth’s character?

The probe shows the sophisticated thoughts of Chillingworth.

5. What does Chillingworth mean when he mutters, “A strange sympathy betwixt soul and body"? Were it only for the art’s sake, I must search this matter to the bottom!”?

Dimmesdale is strongly troubled by his past sins. This made Chillingworth very curious, and he wats to investigate deeper into what have happened. The strage sympathy betwixt sould and body is talking about the cause of Dimmesdale’s sickness, as his physical symptoms are caused by the guilt that he have been experiencing.

6. What does Chillingworth do while Dimmesdale sleeps, and what does his action symbolize? Describe Chillingworth’s reaction and what his response reveals about his character.

Chillingworth touches Dimmesdale’s chest. This action symbolizes the discovery of Dimmesdale’s sins

7. What do you suppose is the specific secret that Chillingworth discovers?

The secret is probably the Dimmesdale have also put a scarlet letter on his chest out of guilt for what Hester is going through.

**Chapter 11**

1. Explain the statement, “He [Chillingworth] became, thenceforth, not a spectator

only, but a chief actor, in the poor minister’s interior world.”

Chillingworth is no longer just standing aside and observing the guilt that Dimmesdale is feeling, he is now actively taking his revenge upon the poor minister. He does this by torturing Dimmesdale in his daily life by doing things to evoke his sense of guilt to make him feel bad of his actions.

1. What is ironic about Dimmsdale’s incredible success as a minister?

Dimmesdale’s incredible success is largely because of his reputation of being a very religious person and fallowing the puritan belief. However, the public does not know about the horrible sins that he have confessed, sins strong enough that was supposed to bring the consequence of ending his life. This shows the twisted mindset of people in the puritan society. Their view on different things is strongly affected by the context of the situation and person involved. Hester is a woman, and she have been humiliated for what she have done, while Dimmesdale have been taken no blame and instead is some one the society respects. Hester and Dimmesdale while have the same sin, and with Hester even more brave than Dimmesdale of willing to take the consequences of their action, Dimmesdale is respected by the society while Hester is disgusted by the society.

1. Why are Dimmsdale’s public assertions of guilt ironic?

See above

1. Explain the ways that Dimmsdale tortures himself.

Dimmesdale does not sleep, put the scarlet letter on his chest, and even whips himself. While these are all actions of Dimmesdale trying to take physical consequence of his actions, these only make him feel slightly better. He knows that what should really be taken away is his fame and honor. However, he is very much too scared too loose these things, and he is afraid of loosing his position in the social hierarchy.

5. Comparing Dimmsdale’s current struggle with his sin with Hawthorne’s earlier

treatment of Hester and her sin, what is Hawthorne suggesting about the effects of sin?

Hawthorne suggests that one should face the consequences of their sins directly. This is because as can be seen from Dimmesdale’s situation, his guilt have been sickening him for a long time, while Hester on the other hand have bravely paid off her sins by taking the consequences directly.

6. What is ironic about Hawthorne’s Portrayal of the Puritan society, in terms of this

developing theme?

The puritan society’s view on different things are very contextual, and dependant on the people with power. People in the puritan society does not have strong individual thinking skills, and their opinions often sources from what those around them sais. This makes it so that the only people who thinks individually, the respected people positioned high on the social hierarchy, have their thoughts spread across the entire society. Hawthorne shows this in this chapter through the depiction of Dimmesdale. Dimmesdale’s health is badly affected by the guilt that he feels for not confining his sins. Being such a coward, his position can be compared to Hester, who have directly taken the consequences of her actions by standing on the scaffold for 3 hours. The society however, did not honor her bravery, as she is commonly looked down by the townspeople. On the other hand, Dimmesdale who did not give as much as Hester, but is positioned higher in the social hierarchy did not receive any consequence from the towns people. Nature balances this out, as Hester is less affected by her actions in the past and lives in perfect health conditions while Dimmesdale is graduately sickening every day because of the guilt that he feels.

**Chapter 12**

1. How is the episode of Dimmsdale’s midnight vigil on the scaffold structurally

significant?

Dimmesdale’s midnight vigil on the scaffold shows that he really wants to confess his sins to the publically. This shows the point of Dimmesdale, where he almost cannot hold it back anymore, because of his guilt. With this chapter being the midpoint of the book, the significance of this change is showing that a lot of things will start to become different later on.

2. What is the significance of Pearl’s challenge to Dimmsdale?

Pearl’s challenge to Dimmesdale is asking whether he is willing to hold her and her mother’s hand tomorrow noon. This is asking whether Dimmesdale is willing to give up his social position as a consequence of his actions. Dimmesdale replies that he is willing to confess his sins, but just not “to’morrow” This shows that Dimmesdale is still being a coward, and does not want to face the consequence of his actions, of ruining his honor and fame.

3. Considering the role of Nature in Anti-Transcendental literature, what is the

significance of the meteor event?

Nature is often used to show the truth, as explained in the book, what happens on the sky often for tells what happens in the future. Dimmesdale saw a letter A drawn in lines of dull red light. To him, he interoperated this as a symbol for the sins that he have confessed – adultery. However, given the context of the death of another governor, the townspeople interoperated this A as a symbol for “angel”.

4. Although Governor Winthrop is merely mentioned in the book, why would

Hawthorne choose this night as the night Dimmsdale stands on the scaffold with Hester and Peal?

The death of Governor Winthrop adds contrast to Dimmesdale and Hester. While Hester have been with Governor Winthrop like all other normal townspeople, Dimmesdale is still troubled by the sins that he have confessed, and thus he is still a the scaffold. Him being on the scaffold shows that he is still being punished for his sins as he does not want to pay oof the consequences of his honor and fame.

1. How does Dimmsdale feel as he holds Pearl’s hand and why?

Dimmesdale feels a sense of warmth and comfort. This is because he secretly really wants to be with his family. However, he cannot because his cowardness is stopping him from giving up his social position.

1. Why does Pearl pull away from Dimmsdale? 7. What effect does Dimmsdale’s vigil have of his career?

Pearl represents the inner-self of Hester. Pearl pulls away from Dimmesdale after Dimmesdale rejects to stand with her and Hester on the scaffold tomorrow’s noon. Hester and Pearl joint Dimmesdale on the scaffold without a hesitation, showing that they are willing to still help Dimmesdale despite what he have done to Hester when Hester was on the scaffold. This characterizes Hester as forgiving. However, even with Hester and Pearl actively trying to help Dimmesdale, Dimmesdale still does not want to take the consequences of his actions, and does not want to be embarrassed in public even though he deserves it. Keep in mind that Hester have already been through this and she does not have to do this again. The only reason why she would be willing to do this is to help Dimmesdale. Dimmesdale’s action of ordering Hester shows his sexist belief, as in this instance he is not viewing Hester as a person, but instead an object that can help him feel slightly better. With understanding of this entire thing, Pearl tries to pull away from Dimmesdale because Hester wants to reject Dimmesdale. Dimmesdale have obviously let Hester down, as Hester assumed that Dimmesdale is willing to confess his sins since he is standing on the scaffold, but he is not. This disappointment lead Hester reject Dimmesdale’s request to reunite, which is symbolized by their action of holding hands. However, Dimmesdale refuses to let go Pearl’s hand because he likes this sense of relief that he is feeling. He is essentially asking for forgiveness with the consequences taken all by Hester. Hester cannot actively say no because of the social hierarchy, but with Pearl representing the inner-thoughts of Hester, Pearl rejects Dimmesdale’s request to hold hands.