



Scarlet Letter
Reading Check – Ch. 7 – 9

Please - Use Separate Paper

1. Why did the town's leaders think Pearl should be separated from Hester?
2. Describe Pearl's appearance and dress when she visits the Governor, being specific as possible.
3. When questioned as to her origin, Pearl replied she had been plucked by her mother off the bush of wild roses – what is this referring to?
4. In what way has Roger Chillingworth changed? How is he regarded by the townspeople?
5. Pleading passionately to keep her child, whom does Hester appeal to for aid and sympathy? Why?
6. Summarize the argument Mr. Dimmesdale uses to convince the Governor to allow Hester to keep her child.
7. What tender incident took place between Pearl and Mr. Dimmesdale?
8. Read the following excerpt and explain its inherent symbolism.
"Hist, hist! ...wilt thou go with us tonight? There will be merry company in the forest..."
"Had they taken her from me, I would willingly have gone with thee into the forest..."
9. Mr. Dimmesdale comments, "...if Providence should see fit to remove [me] it would be because of [my] own unworthiness to perform its humblest mission..."
The people think he is just being humble; explain what he really means.
10. Ah – the intense and appropriate allusion Hawthorne uses in the following excerpt – can you explain it? If not, make a reasonable guess based on the story context.
"The walls were hung round with tapestry...representing the Scriptural story of David and Bathsheba, and Nathan the Prophet..."

