



The Scarlet Letter The Big Four

Consider the four major characters in *The Scarlet Letter*: Hester Prynne, Pearl, Arthur Dimmesdale, and Roger Chillingworth. First, describe each character's physical appearance. Then choose a line of dialogue spoken by each character that reveals something important about him or her. Be sure to cite the page number. Describe an event the character makes happen, citing the chapter in which it occurs. Finally, describe the character's crime and the imposed punishment. Use your completed chart to answer the two questions at the bottom of the worksheet.

Character	Physical Appearance	Significant Line of Dialogue	Important Event	Crime	Punishment
Hester Prynne	Tall and elegant	“What we did had a consecration of its own. We felt it so! We said so to each other!” (page 161)		Birthing a child without a legal husband as the father	
Pearl					
Arthur Dimmesdale					

Roger Chillingworth					
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In *The Scarlet Letter*, did the characters' punishments fit their crimes?

How did each character change as a result of the punishment?

RL.11-12.1 Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.

RL.11-12.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze how an author uses and refines the meaning of a key term or terms over the course of a text (e.g., how Madison defines *faction* in *Federalist No. 10*).

RL.11-12.5 Analyze and evaluate the effectiveness of the structure an author uses in his or her exposition or argument, including whether the structure makes points clear, convincing, and engaging.

W.11-12.1 Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

Answer Key

Sample Student Response

Character	Physical Appearance	Significant Line of Dialogue	Important Event	Crime	Punishment
Hester Prynne	Tall and elegant; long, thick, dark hair; deep brown eyes; beautiful complexion; lovely handmade clothes; always wearing ornate scarlet A on her chest	“What we did had a consecration of its own. We felt it so! We said so to each other!” (page 161)	She confesses to Dimmesdale that Chillingworth had been her husband back in England. (Chapter XVII)	Birthing a child without a legal husband as the father	Hester was put into prison, had to stand on the platform in the market-place for three hours, was banished from living in town, and had to wear the scarlet A on her dress for the rest of her life.