

# The Scarlet Letter

09-10-09

- opening line - adjectives lead us to understand the setting + mood for the book. gloomy, scary - jail has spikes. harsh, cold
- first thing they build is a cemetery - ok, ppl died on the journey - you were on a boat for a long time. next, maybe you'd build houses or a church
- no, they build a prison → shows evil + seriousness
  - ⓐ darkest + oldest building in colony - "ugly edifice"
  - ⓑ soil - there was something welcomed in the soil that made the prison "grow" out of the soil like a black flower - created by ppl
  - ⓒ story starts in June - late spring + early summer
  - ⓓ Puritans - create black flower

Nature creates a beautiful rose bush } contrast

- Hawthorne says he's giving all readers one sweet blossom - why? he's hoping it will ease the harsh + dark story ⇒ "Sweet moral blossom" we should pity them b/c the Puritans don't

→ "a tale of human frailty + sorrow" - story of a human's flaws

09-14-09  
 clearing, forest, woods  
 they had to clear the bushes + trees off to make a town. Had to create something from nothing.

- afraid that baby would crawl into the forest b/c snakes + wild animals
- more free time → ppl wandered into forest, looked down, ppl going away from strict Puritan laws. encounter Indians → ppl said they worshipped the Black Man/Devil (ppl say so)

→ allowed Chillingworth to go there to get the needles → trusted him, gave him most valuable patient **Dimmesdale**.

- Puritan pi of the street - place of no god, and of Satan, had place with evil, good, proper, rule, some lawful

Hester + Dimmesdale New Forest as a <sup>safe</sup> haven - harmony, love  
 - town - harsh, cruel, unforgiving, discipline + conformity

scattered letter can mean a noble, adulterers, angel → ambiguity = all of them  
 marketplace - scaffold - 3 scenes there

- ① Pearl, Dimmesdale, Chillingworth - three some
- ② 3 encounters of Hester + Chillingworth
- ③ 3 clergymen
- ④ symbolizes (God) (Jesus) (Resurrection of Jesus)  
 Father, Son, Holy Ghost → trinity  
 ✦ religion + god → defines puritans

09-16-09

Key Allusions - indirect references

Character Allusions

Hester	Pryme	② Arthur Dimmesdale	③ Roger Chillingworth
ful	→ print + paper	→ brave	→ cold hearted
lesser	→ swords like sin	→ knight	→ go emotion
s		→ beloved	→ intellect
identity		→ heroic abilities	→ like a stone
to reader		→ tempted	burning in his eyes
sociated			
(with)			

gives off the allusion  
 makes Pryme → ppl believe he's brave

dark valley  
 walking through a dark valley - valley of death  
 minister - committed a sin  
 → weath, feels bad, guilty, wishes he had something to do to make up for it  
 everyday is like living in a dark valley

Red: red  
 glow of his eyes → snow  
 anger  
 like a stone

bleach (or)  
 gives him a  
 white  
 → profits  
 he's even more

✦ gives off the impression of King Arthur but on the inside he's walking along a dark valley - getting eaten up by guilt

"his heart bears as one with the pop"  
 ↓  
 he knows its imposs to not do  
 that's what makes his

only one of the ministers that makes himself like everyone else. During

→ continued

- ④ Pearl → grain of sand goes into clam and irritates it...
  - so to Pearl is an irritant to Hester
  - ① she reminds her of her sin → always there, evidence of her sin
  - ② irritates her with behavior → always questions Hester → reminds her of the scarlet letter.
- Pearls are valuable, "came at a very high price"

09-17-09

chapter 2

tone - in literature → reveals feelings + attitude of author.

The woman in society

- ① "with a moral diet" - country women } didn't have such great morals.
- "beef + ale" - not a great meal }
- ② speech was "rotund" - round
  - they never talked in a sophisticated way.
  - "purport" - purpose of their conversation = gossip
  - they talk about Hester's sin
- ③ tough + loud } they saw they'll never let her get away
- very far from Penelope } with her sin.

Hester -

- ① so beautiful - "halo"
- ② elegant - carries herself with dignity
- ③ LADY LIKE
- ④ Hester was a real lady "strong" as apposed to the ladies who were delicate, faint etc → ironic b/c hes praising her - she's the star.



09/21/09

Three scaffold scenes

1st: June, morning, spring represents rebirth, newing, planting  
 [summer early adulthood / fall - elderly / winter - death]  
 ↓  
 changing color of hemlock  
 ↓  
 Fall of the leaves  
 ↓  
 night

2nd: night, not sure season

3rd: morning, fall

First: everyone (townspeople) gathered around, marketplace

Dimmesdale  
 1501  
 like the others  
 and that's why they love respect him

Chillingworth + Dimmesdale in crowd  
 Balcony = other sinners → overlooking everyone  
 & shows that they think they're holier than everybody - shows that they are pure &

Pearl and Hester are on scaffold

**CRITICAL**

SECOND: Dimmesdale, Pearl, Hester

↑  
 feeling guilty and wants to punish himself

Jonathan

holding hands = represents a family  
 Chillingworth is wandering around. Rev. Wilson walking by holding a lantern - coming from withrop death bed.  
 ↓  
 light

(continued)

Third: After Dimmesdale's sermon, gets up there - "I should have been here 7 years ago."

→ Chillingworth is trying to get up there to stop Dimmesdale from confessing. Or if he does, he didn't get his revenge + without his revenge he's nothing

Why does Dimmesdale die after he confesses?

When you do sth wrong + confess, confession doesn't negate the punishment.

He didn't have to die → he could have not been minister or be banished. Why did Hawthorne choose to kill him off?

hypocrite - two faced: preaches one thing and does another.

Chillingworth - trust with someone and he betrays it (for selfish purposes)

↓  
the worst  
very hard to win back trust  
Dimmesdale thought doc was helping/caring him but Chillingworth's real purpose was to dig deeper + deeper to weaken him.

whose fault was it - why did Dimmesdale die?

If you hide your guilt so that you don't get punished, will ultimately destroy you → hidden guilt will kill you.

He died because his guilt weakened him so → to a point that he was too weak.

Chillingworth was devastated by the death because it took away his function in life → revenge.

the reason Dimmesdale dies is to show how hidden guilt can destroy you.

SIN OF PURITANS - lack of forgiveness, because of this people hide their guilt

09-23-09

Style: (techniques)

Ambiguity - adds suspense to the plot

Ronny → tone of his writing

(a) dramatic

(b) verbal

modernism - very heavy → rose bush (hope & compassion)  
firest (fear)

petition - color, scaffold scenes

ros, forest  
red: scarlet letter, red of doc's eye, flush of pearl's cheeks

2, rebirth, renewal  
sin evil heaven  
brown / prison black/gray - Blackman, pictures, meaning,

sil - hester vs Dimmesdale in midday  
shout Hides it

[unclear]

[faint handwritten notes]

The Crucible

def - vessel that can withstand high temp's w/o breaking  
→ called this b/c town undergoes a hard task/experience

Parris - in it for the business. not well liked

"felt insulted & so rose to shut door before asking him" - control freak  
very materialistic, ppl didn't think he was spiritual enough

10-21-09

Girls - "let loose" - so upright and constrained during the day.

↳ Abigail, Mary Warren

→ at the beginning, you don't have time to do anything (have to build your horse before winter, etc) → once things go smoothly ppl have more free time

Giles fears (inferior) that his wife is reading foreign books. The man of the house isn't educated enough to read them

→ by telling judges, he unintentionally causes her death  
& didn't mean to "kill" her

Defense mechanism - projection

fear of punishment. Being uncomfortable for fear of consequences.  
"witch-hunt was incited... express publicly his guilt and sins"

→ ppl kept every thing inside before b/c they would be embarrassed

↑ isolated

Ex - HESTER Prynne

Thomas Putnam - vindictive nature. Brother-in-law Bailey lost vote for revengeful

Mrs. Putnam → 7 babies that all died, shortly after childbirth  
doesn't feel he's been treated properly  
family has been snubbed  
expects that ppl will say god is punishing her b/c she ~~isn't~~ isn't good enough



→ 100

chor - farmer in middle 30's. man of his own thinking.

"A proctor is ..."

proctor is a type. So like him is always in danger.

calamy - falseness, lies

ppa will always accuse them bc they dont like him.

people respect him but he's not well liked.

proctor knew he sinned but what bothered him more than anything was that he didnt live up to who he wanted to be. Not much about how he's viewed in society. → it's how he didnt live up to himself

→ can't confess bc punishment will destroy something ppl keep to himself

→ he's a good man - confessed and apologized to himself  
promised he would never be alone with her (Abigail)

→ alone in court room

"we never touched, Abby" - i never felt anything  
you, nothing now. Didn't mean anything to me but she's

Rebecca and Francis Nurse

→ Mrs Putnam lost all her <sup>seven</sup> babies and Rebecca teaches her  
se. To take fear of punishment off of her she projects it on  
Abigail who's causing her babies to die.

→ Francis: move away from Salem and set up a new townshood  
voted against Pally



10-26-09

The Crucible

**ACT TWO** = proctor house

→ Elizabeth didn't make the stew tasty enough. He puts salt in it and hides it - it's easier for him to add the salt than complain. He has to redeem himself from her because of his sin. Wants to make things right.

→ convo: Awk - small talk. As if they're not comfy with e/d. He says it's well seasoned - she blushes with pleasure. Why does she <sup>need to</sup> please him? He cheated on her!

→ they starting to question the affair: maybe he cheated on her because I'm not good enough.

→ Elizabeth wants <sup>him</sup> to go to court to tell <sup>that</sup> Abigail is lying. He's not ready to do it because that he will have to confess his sin. Tell his side of the story - Abby did witchcraft to get rid of Elizabeth.

52 → **HALE** =

→ pg 54 - "an everlasting funeral marches around your heart" - metaphor. Proctor doing everything to please him - trying so hard. But she's still always depressed.

→ pg 60: Elizabeth had been pushing for John to go to court b/c she knows Abby wants her dead.

→ Proctor says the only reason ppl <sup>[confess]</sup> admit to witchcraft is b/c they don't want to be hanged.

→ Hales allegorizing Rebecca Nurse - they're taking in really good ppl, innocent ppl. It can't be happening → we must send her home.

→ Everyone is jealous of e/d. Accusing others to get even w/ one another.

→ when Elizabeth comes in, Proctor's back is to her, can't give her any notion of what to say.

21102

John + Francis Nurse, Giles → all receive punishments but their honest  
or doesn't want to go up with this crowd bc he's not honest (with his  
D)

Elizabeth blames herself for his lechery - its part her fault for not  
if she didn't express her love for him → she had low self esteem,  
= not pretty, didn't think she was good enough  
she was never a warm, loving wife → kept a cold house

Importance of a name:

Ex - Macduff had so much wealth. Ained his name forever  
for can't give over his name. "Bc it is my name! I can't have another in my  
How will I live w/o my name? you have given you my just, leave me my  
!" will confess in the end bc it will destroy his reputation.

line: Elizabeth: "He have my goodness now. God forbid I take it  
I'm!" - He's finally forgiven himself. If I take this away from  
he will have a horrible life forever.

ACT I:

Macbeth - proud of what he does. ppl really listen to what he says - has so  
much knowledge → knows what he's doing. At the beginning.

ACT II:

Macbeth - sees the world black or white. No gray shades in b/w.  
↓ won't postpone death sentence of proctor (pg 128) bc he's already  
killed many people. He's not worried about his image, worried about  
doing the right thing.  
↑ knows he ~~did~~ made a mistake

LIFE LESSON:

ppl don't want to admit they did wrong.

Hale: pg 132 - says to Elizabeth -

"Goody Proctor - cleave to no faith, when faith brings blood"

go ahead with John, tell him to confess → tell him to lie  
Hale doesn't want him to hang b/c he's innocent & Hale will feel guilty afterward.

Proctor - wants to be hanged. Elizabeth has forgiven him but he has to forgive himself

→ Elizabeth runs to him, crying but he says to her "don't - be strong, don't let the others see your emotion"

→ imp of a good name - keep it no matter what

CRUCIBLE - test that the entire town has to undergo. They're all passed the test if they are innocent. The guilty ones fail.

Proctor fights what he believes in - passes the test.

