

# [Scarlet letter response](https://assignbuster.com/scarlet-letter-response/)

Response to The Scarlet Letter " Confess thy truth and thou   
shall have eternal rest." I belive that is the moral to be taught   
in this novel of inspirational love, yet a novel of much   
sorrow. The impossible became possible in The Scarlet   
Letter, a story set back in the Puritan Times. In this   
response, I will give my reactions in writing to different   
aspects of the novel; the characchters, my likes and dislikes,   
my questions, and my opinion of the harsh Puritain lifestyle.

Hester Prynne, the Reverend Dimmesdale, and Roger   
Chillingworth each suffered guilt in their own way in the   
novel The Scarlet Letter. In the beginning of the novel,   
Hester Prynne should have not suffered the way she did on   
the scaffold alone. She was forced to be intergated by the   
high-officials of the town, while holding her little Pearl in   
arms. Making matters worse, the father of the child was in   
that very group of officals. She was then sentenced to wear   
the scarlet letter " A", showing her guilt " externally". Unable   
to take it off, she was forced to show her guilt to the entire   
settlement. However, the Reverend Dimmesdale suffered   
" internally", with a scarlet letter of his own engraved in his   
mind, and on his chest as well. He felt like he betrayed God,   
and beat himself in a frenzy to prove his wrongdoing. He   
often questioned wheather his authority was true or not.

Roger Chillingworth suffered the least, because he only   
failed to reveal the secret that he knew, the father of the   
child who Hester Prynne was forced to live with. This small   
restriction to his life forced him to suffer " internally". I had   
different likes and dislikes in the novel The Scarlet Letter.

There were many things that needed to be judged to fit into   
the given catagories, including; character attitudes, and   
character decisions. For example, the attitude displayed   
from the Reverend Mr. Dimmesdale was rather unnapealing   
to me. There are different ways of settling ones guilt rather   
than whipping oneself in a closet. The one character whose   
attitude was appealing to me was that of Pearl's. She   
showed that mistakes in a relationship often lead to bad   
situations. Her mischeif and connection to the devil are   
examples of just those situations. Character decisions played   
an euqally important role. For example, I thought the   
descision for Hester not to tell who was the father of Pearl   
on the scaffold to be very brave, but was wrong. She could   
have ended it a lot quicker if she told the truth. A descision   
that I supportted was the plan for Hester, the Reverend   
Dimmesdale and Pearl to leave town, because it was a way   
to start a new life. Certain questions came about when   
reading The Scarlet Letter. Many of them involved small   
details. . For example, why did Hester not tell her daughter   
at a younger age what the " A" embroidered on her clothes   
meant? Why did the minister wear elaborate garments when   
conducting his self-punishment in the closet? However, other   
questions were involving larger situations. Why did the   
minster keep quiet when he knew he wouldn't live for much   
longer? What made Hester finnally remove her scarlet letter   
(for a short period of time)? The Puritanic age was a harsh   
and brutal period of time. At many times, citizens had no   
rights whatsoever. The persecuted depended on the fate of   
the few elite, or the top officials of town. Their laws were   
srict regaurding having a child out of wedlock, and if not   
followed, a scarlet letter " A" would place itself upon that   
person(s). My thoughts on the whole Puritanic epoch are not   
sympothetic. The strict rules set guildlines and formed a   
society in which much of it had no problems. I would even   
think that if applied to currnet times, it would turn society   
around dramatically.

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