

Basic info on scarlet letter essay



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Meanwhile, the outer-lying forest allows for the town's people to be their untamed, passionate selves, in the shroud of God-made natural darkness. Feeling compelled to leave their strict society, the puritans flee to the forest to commit the "sins" they otherwise could not. .

Plot: Exposition: Hester Prynne is an average Puritan woman, except she has committed a horrible sin. While her husband was lost at sea, she committed adultery and bore a daughter. As she is being punished by having to wear a scarlet "A" on her chest each day, her lover, Reverend Dimmesdale remains unknown to the people. Roger Chillingworth is introduced as Hester's long lost husband, but only to her. He forces her to keep his secret as he infiltrates the town as a medical man in search of Hester's lover. Chillingworth abuses his power by constantly picking at Dimmesdale's guilt. Climax: Finally, Dimmesdale can no longer contain his guilt.

After being slowly tortured by Chillingworth, who had long suspected him, Dimmesdale climbs upon the scaffold and shouts to the townspeople his crime. His final breath is used to bid, "Farewell" to all around as he falls dead (Hawthorne 239). This is the climax because it is finally made known to the reader and minor characters that Dimmesdale was Hester's lover and the father of Pearl.

Resolution: The final chapter of *The Scarlet Letter* concludes the action. It describes the remaining lives of Hester, Pearl and Chillingworth. A year after Dimmesdale's death, Chillingworth dies too, because his reason for living (ruining Dimmesdale) is gone. Chillingworth leaves his whole estate to Pearl. Pearl escapes the Puritan lifestyle by moving away, she marries and it is

assumed she has children of her own (because her mother is observed making baby clothes). 5.

Harassers: Hester Prone: Hester is the protagonist. Alienated by the Puritan community for her adulterous sin, Hester is shaped into a saintly figure, cause she so classically bears her punishment. Even though past experiences (her adultery and the idea that she did not love her husband) paint Hester to be rash and free-thinking, her punishment molds her to control her impulses and to modestly accept her fate.

The Scarlet Letter secured to her chest is no longer attached to the idea of shame, but to acceptance. Reverend Dimmesdale: He is Hester's hidden lover. His extremely over-sensitive conscience leaves him physically pained by his guilt. When Hester accepts all the punishment onto her shoulders (without revealing him), he is left feeling worse. His guilt leaves him outstandingly empathetic to the common sinner and shapes his skills in ministry. His mental distress and physical weakness create sympathies that produce sermons that are both powerful and intellectually awe-lingers. His final scene is his greatest spectacle of all. When he resembles Hester and her Scarlet Letter, it was expected that the crowd be unforgiving of his sin, as they were towards all others, but instead they are left, “.

.. In a strange, deep voice of awe and wonder...

” (239). His eloquence and outbursting emotion was enough to affect their perception of his sin and torment. Roger Chillingworth: Roger Chillingworth is Hester's husband and he is the antagonist. He is a scholar and is much older

than Hester. He had sent her to America before him, and a rumor later circled that he was lost at sea or taken in by Indians.

Clownishness's true identity is known only to the reader and Hester. His well educated back-ground and time spent with Indians allows him to become Boson's new medical man. His medical concoctions and experiments verge on witchcraft and mystery. He uses his power to search for Hester lover; he does not seek justice, but ' enhance.

Often referred to as " leech", he is compared to a bloodsucking parasite, because he drains his patients of their well-being. For instance, when Damsely's condition starts to scare the town's people, Timescale and Chlorinating move into small house to better their doctor-patient healing process. However, this only allows Chlorinating to slowly get his revenge.

His actions are fueled by hate as opposed to Timescale and Hester sin, which was fueled by love. This contrast plays into the theme of evil vs.. Sin. Pearl Prone: Hester daughter and constant reminder of the sin it took to create her, Pearl is the product of nature. Having grown up in the surrounding nature of Boston, Pearl is described as " impish", because she Nas not forced into the strict religious community, but instead is seen embracing the natural God-made environment she is immersed in. Far more intelligent than the adults of the novel, Pearl recognizes from an early age the relationship between Hester and Timescale.

Because Pearl is radically honest, her comments to Timescale on his adultery, Hester on her Scarlet Letter and to the other children, make her seem brutal and devilish. A rumor spreads that she is the actual offspring f

the Devil and town superiors try to remove her from Hester as a result. Her name reflects her meaning to her mother. Out of the ashes from her mother's sin, came Pearl, an object of beauty and pain staking work. She is the positive consequence of Hester adultery. Yet, it is hard for Hester to identify this, because she is often surprised by Pearl's wild, untamed spirit.

6. Literary Element: Hester Scarlet Letter is the biggest symbol in The Scarlet Letter. Though its original purpose was to shame Hester, it becomes a symbol of her acceptance to the identity society had chosen for her. She does not let the letter define her, but instead define the letter. Hester uses her masterful seamstress skills to embroider and lace up the "A", to show she is not disappointed or ashamed of it.

Some see this as pride, but it is merely her way of accepting it as a part of the life she already has. 7. Style: Early in the story, as she stands on the scaffold, Hester thinks of her life in England.

Context clues reveal she committed adultery and the crowd below looks upon her in aggressive shame. She flashes back to a better time, she thinks of her parents and she remembers her Childhood. Reminiscences, the trifling and immaterial, passages of infancy and schooldays, sports, childish quarrels, and traits of her maiden years, came swarming back upon her, intermingled with recollections of whatever was graves in her subsequent life; one picture precisely as vivid as another; as if all were of similar relieve itself, by the exhibition of these phantasmagoria forms, from the cruel weight and hardness of the reality. (65) Here Hawthorne uses syntax to resemble the flashing of memories as they come to Hester mind.

The commas represent the breaks in her train of thought as new thoughts interrupt the last. His use of a semi- colon also breaks the thought, but continues it toward the same direction it was already headed (he continues to describe the vividness of her memories). His use of the word “ phantasmagoria” separates himself from Hester almost flaunting that his diction is better than what she would have used to describe it herself.

While Timescale is living with Chlorinating he comes to question the leech’s honesty and begins to hate him for the greatening guilt he feels. In a moment of self discovery, Timescale begins to contemplate why the people of Boston did not know of his sin already when he practically shouts it to the world Just by showing the pain of his guilt. More than once? nay, more than a hundred times? he had actually spoken! Spoken! But how? He had told his hearers that he was altogether vile, a viler companion of the vilest, the worst of sinners, an abomination, a thing of unimaginable iniquity; and that the only wonder was that they did not see his “ retched body before their eyes by the burning wrath of the Almighty! Could there be a plainer speech than this? ” (140) Hawthorn’s use of complex syntax parallels Damsselfly’s thought process.

Through Hawthorn’s narration we can hear the Attlee Timescale is undergoing inside his mind. Timescale questions himself and his “ hearers” rhetorically as he struggles to understand why God has left him to roam the earth with his heavy burden-like sin. Hawthorne favors the use of comma to help punctuate the pauses as Timescale thinks up new adjectives to describe himself. The exclamation marks show Damsselfly’s surprise at the fact that his ‘ hearers” cannot actually hear “ him when he tries to admit his sins. And <https://assignbuster.com/basic-info-on-scarlet-letter-essay/>

the question Hawthorne poses, “ Could there be a plainer speech than this” further shows Damsselfly’s disbelief.

8. Theme: In the Boston Puritan community it was common for the guilty sinners to be biblically punished. However, the characters of The Scarlet Letter fail to recognize the over laying theme: the difference between sin and true evil. Though they recognize Chlorinating as an evil spirit out for blood, their customs are powerless against him and he is left free to continue on. Meanwhile, Hester and Damsselfly’s “ sin” creates a much larger impact on their society and way of life because it is written in their Bible not to commit adultery, so Hester receives a harsh life-time punishment, when there is no written rule against being evil.