

The scarlet letter plot essay



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One of the main aspects and purposes of *The Scarlet Letter*, was to illustrate the differences between the public humiliation of a person about their sin's, or the private suffering of a persons guilt and sin In their private acts. The fact that Hester had not just one of these, but both to deal with in her life. Besides the fact that she kept Timescales secret from the rest of the colony of his sin, but on top of that she was made to wear a letter “ A” upon all her clothing an was to never take It off. The us that Timescale Is dealing with the private guilt which some say Is worse than the public guilt, but others would say the exact opposite of this. Secondly the fact that Hawthorne shows and portrays the legal statutes of how the people of those days viewed sin and their own expectations of Its punishment should and would be dealt with according to the Bible an the strict interpretations of it on Adultery. The Fact that Hawthorne puts Hester up on the Scaffold in the beginning of the book to stand in front of the townspeople shows us his views on how he believed hat Hester should be punished. Where as the peoples laws from those days clearly stated that a person was to punishable to death for committing adultery. This scene in the book is just another example of how public guilt was displayed.

The other example used in this scene that's controversial with this, whereas it is shown as private guilt was that Timescale would not appear on the Scaffold and stand with Hester or baby Pearl. Hester was punished publicly numerous times without relentless for seven years because of Pearl. Pearls continuous teasing of Hester 1 OFF Lastly, is the personal torture of guilt and emotional destruction of people involved in the affair really enough punishment for the sin, whether publicly or privately punished.

Hester was Publicly punished, once upon the scaffold in the beginning of the book, also in the fact that she was also punished just from having Pearl around. And the third thing she was punished for besides the Letter “A”, but by keeping Slingshot’s secret as well, privately that he was her husband. She also just privately kept her guilt a secret that he was her husband and that he meant to cause Dimmesdale pain and grief for his sins.

Dimmesdale and Chillingworth both are found to suffer privately, Chillingworth because he knew that Dimmesdale was the father of Pearl and he also was Hester’s husband as well. The suffering that Dimmesdale went through was an agony for him as he is said to hold his hand over his heart quite a lot towards the end of the book. Whether this was because he was feeling the guilt of adultery or because of some self-inflicted punishment that he laced upon himself, that hurt him so privately that he couldn’t bear to tell anybody until his last act told in the book.