

# Scarlet letter thesis essay



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The three scaffolding scenes are all important because they show how the scaffold is represented as a place where people are seen to be guilty of a crime or sin, and also how it contradicts the thought of having here collect reverend in a high place as well. The first scaffolding scene in the book “The Scarlet Letter” is important and proves that the scaffold in the center of their community is a place for criminals and sinners to be recognized as such. As we know, Hester Prynne was committed for adultery which is why she was led to the scaffold. In their community the scaffold is the homeboys of clarity of whoever stands atop it.

In this case, Hester is considered to be transparent, so that everyone in the town can see that she has sinned. Her punishment not alone to wear the scarlet letter but to also have spent a certain amount of time upon the scaffold as she states on page 54, line five “... Her sentence bore, that she should stand a certain time upon the platform but without undergoing that gripe about the neck and confinement of the head.

.. ” What this means is that she will have to stand upon the scaffolding, but not to be hanged, only publicly shamed. But this in some ways contradicts the action of putting their minister in a high place, such as a balcony. The idea of not only having your sinners but also your criminals put into a place above all others to be seen can be a contradictory.

The second scaffolding scene is important because this is where Dimmesdale performs his own silent vigil upon the scaffolding. The interpretation of this is that even the seemingly most holy of men has sin within and Arthur Dimmesdale is proof of that. He cries out in agony as he stands on top of it,

because of the great amount of spiritual pain he's suffering from along with guilt. As he screams, Hester and Pearl happen to be walking by, on their way home from the death bed of the governor Winthrop. At this point Dimmesdale, in an act of love I believe, invites Hester and Pearl atop the scaffolding with him to stand and be as if they were family. But when Pearl asks for him to join them upon the scaffolding the next day during the day when the world can see, his response is noted on page 150, line two through three: "Not so, my child. I shall, indeed, stand with thy mother and thee one other day, but not tomorrow. The reason for this that we can infer is because of the public shame that would be piled atop him in that instance.

The reason that then, during the cover of dark during the night is okay is because of the symbolism of night: nontransparent. He is not being judged at this point because he "cannot be seen" through the cover of the dark veil of night. The next important part of the second scaffolding scene is the coming of the meteor, and revealing of the letter "A" in the sky, which to some would show that, just because Hester has to wear the symbol on her person for the world to see, Dimmesdale still holds the symbol within himself.

The symbol of the meteor that can be inferred is that they both equal in their sin, no matter the status of one or the other during the time of the sin.

Lastly, the third scaffolding scene's major importance is that Dimmesdale exclaims his sin on the scaffold during the revealing light of day. Just by being on the scaffold shows that he is guilty of a sin. Allowing himself to become transparent to Hester and Pearl to join him. This is a contradiction of the idea that the holy are eased above all others, which is why they have Reverend Dimmesdale on a balcony for his speeches and other public affairs.

This scene also shows how the reverend is lowering himself to the same level as Hester.

In conclusion, there are many contradictions to the idea of having the reverend in a higher place as well as having their criminals in a high place too. The book too, shows the usage of the scaffold. The book explained this by having the thought process of Hester incorporated into the first chapter while she was thinking of the scaffolding.