

How to print this booklet

Open the PDF, choose Print, and set these:

Paper size	US Letter (8.5 × 11 in)
Orientation	Landscape
Print on both sides	On (two-sided / duplex)
Flip on	Short edge
Scale	100% / Actual size — not “Fit to page”
Pages	All

THEN

1. Take the whole stack out of the printer. Keep the sheets in order.
2. Fold the stack in half, so this page is on the outside.
3. Staple twice along the fold.



Make another at didtheyreallyread.com

Reading Journal

My thoughts, chapter by chapter

Reader:

Book Title:

The Scarlet Letter

Author:

Nathaniel Hawthorne

Date Started:

Date Finished:

Keep reading. Keep wondering.
Created by didtheyreallyread.com

How to Answer

Your answer does not have to be perfect. Just answer in complete thoughts and use details from the chapter.

How to structure your answer

A strong answer usually has a few parts. Try these steps:

- 1. **Answer the question.** Start with one sentence that answers the question directly.
- 2. **Give an example.** Add a detail or moment from the chapter that shows what you mean.
- 3. **Explain why.** Tell why it mattered, or how it made you think or feel.
- 4. **Wrap it up.** Finish with a closing thought, a question, or a prediction.

Chapter 6: Pearl is described as both beautiful and difficult to guide. How does Pearl make Hester's life harder and also more meaningful?

Example answer: I think Pearl makes Hester's life harder because she is wild, curious, and not easy to control. People also judge Hester more because Pearl reminds them of the scarlet letter. But Pearl also gives Hester someone to love and care for every day. To me, Pearl helps Hester keep going when she feels lonely.

Chapter 24

Chapter 24: Looking back at the whole story, what lesson do you think the book teaches about kindness, guilt, and forgiveness?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 23

Chapter 23: Dimmesdale finally stands with Hester and Pearl in front of everyone. Why is telling the truth in public so important in this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

How to Answer (continued)

Chapter 12: Dimmesdale stands on the scaffold at night instead of in the daytime. How is private bravery different from public bravery in this chapter?

Example answer: Private bravery is when Dimmesdale goes to the scaffold at night, even though almost no one sees him. He is trying to face his guilt, but he is still afraid to tell the whole town. Public bravery would mean speaking the truth when everyone is watching. I think this chapter shows that Dimmesdale wants to be brave, but he is not fully ready yet.

Chapter 24: Looking back at the whole story, what lesson do you think the book teaches about kindness, guilt, and forgiveness?

Example answer: I think the book teaches that guilt can hurt people when they keep it hidden for too long. It also shows that judging others harshly can make their lives even harder. Hester becomes stronger because she keeps helping people, even when they are unkind to her. I think the story wants readers to be more forgiving and kinder to people who have made mistakes.

Chapter 1

Chapter 1: The story begins near a prison door with a wild rosebush beside it. How do these two details make the setting feel, and what might they suggest about the town?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 22

Chapter 22: Dimmesdale gives a powerful sermon while Hester watches from the crowd. What is the difference between what the townspeople see and what Hester knows?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 21

Chapter 21: On Election Day, Hester sees a busy, cheerful crowd, but she also hears troubling news. How do her hopes change during this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 2

Chapter 2: When Hester stands on the scaffold, what do you learn about her from the way she acts in front of the crowd?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 3

Chapter 3: A stranger in the crowd asks questions about Hester. What clues make him seem important to the story?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 20

Chapter 20: After leaving the forest, Dimmesdale feels changed and confused. Why might making a big decision make a person feel both excited and troubled?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 19

Chapter 19: Pearl refuses to come to Hester until Hester puts the scarlet letter back on. What do you think Pearl understands about the letter and her mother?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 4

Chapter 4: Chillingworth visits Hester in prison and asks her to keep his identity secret. Why do you think he wants this secret kept, and what problems might it cause later?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 5

Chapter 5: Hester chooses to stay in the same town instead of leaving. What does this choice show about her character?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 18

Chapter 18: Hester and Dimmesdale plan to leave together, and Hester takes off the scarlet letter. Why does this moment feel hopeful, and what worries still remain?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 17

Chapter 17: Hester finally tells Dimmesdale the truth about Chillingworth. How does Dimmesdale react, and what choice do they begin to consider?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 6

Chapter 6: Pearl is described as both beautiful and difficult to guide. How does Pearl make Hester's life harder and also more meaningful?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 7

Chapter 7: Hester and Pearl visit the governor's house. How do Pearl's bright clothes and the fancy house show a difference between Hester's family and the leaders of the town?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 16

Chapter 16: Hester and Pearl walk into the forest to meet Dimmesdale. How does the forest make the story feel different from the town?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 15

Chapter 15: Hester thinks about Chillingworth, and Pearl asks about the scarlet letter. What does this chapter show about honesty and secrets?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 8

Chapter 8: Hester has to argue that she should be allowed to keep Pearl. What reasons does she give, and what do they show about her as a mother?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 9

Chapter 9: Chillingworth becomes close to Reverend Dimmesdale so he can study him. How is Chillingworth changing, and why might that change be dangerous?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 14

Chapter 14: Hester notices that Chillingworth has become harsh and revengeful. How has revenge changed him?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 13

Chapter 13: Over time, many people begin to see Hester differently. What actions help change the community's opinion of her?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 10

Chapter 10: Chillingworth keeps trying to discover Dimmesdale's secret pain. Why can digging into someone else's secrets become harmful?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 11

Chapter 11: Dimmesdale is loved by the townspeople, but he feels terrible inside. Why might a person hide pain from others, and how can that make the pain worse?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 12

Chapter 12: Dimmesdale stands on the scaffold at night instead of in the daytime. How is private bravery different from public bravery in this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?
