

CHAPTER 15: "HESTER AND PEARL"

WORDS

acrid	innate	subsequent
asperity	irreverence	suffice
blighted	nuptial	talisman
capricious	petulant	unamiable
dexterity	precocity	upbraid
enigma	propensity	verdure
epoch	reproached	vivacity
ere	sedulous	wont
impalpable	sterling	

QUESTIONS

1. How does the sun, and nature in general, react to Chillingworth?
2. Read Hester's description of Chillingworth carefully. How does she feel about him?
3. How do Chillingworth and Pearl represent the two opposing sides of nature?
4. What does Pearl make out of her collection of herbs and plants?
5. What are Pearl's moral attributes?
6. What questions does Pearl ask her mother? Why does this trouble Hester?

NOTES:

deadly nightshade, dogwood, henbane...: poisonous herbs. Henbane was poured into King Hamlet's ear in Shakespeare's play.

hornbook: an early reader made by gluing a piece of parchment to a board and covering it with a piece of transparent horn