

CHAPTER 5 “HESTER AT HER NEEDLE”

WORDS:

banished	lurid	subsistence
commiseration	martyrdom	succor
contumaciously	mortify	sufficed
emolument	nigh	sullied
exhortation	obscure	sumptuary
grave	penance	superfluous
grotesque	penitence	thither
ignominy	plebian	type (n)
imbibe	pomp	ulcerated
incredulity	potent	vigor
infamy	progenitors	vivify
inquisitorial	repugnance	voluptuous
inscrutable	revere	vulgar
insidious	sable	
loathsome	sanctified	

QUESTIONS:

1. What “general symbol” has Hester become?
2. Give at least 2 reasons why Hester does not leave the colony.
3. Describe Hester’s home.
4. What talent did Hester use to support herself and Pearl?
5. What garments is Hester not allowed to sew?
6. Why type of dress did Hester wear? Pearl?
7. What does Hester do that shows she has a charitable nature?
8. How did the poor, the ladies of Boston, the clergy, and the children treat Hester?
9. What special knowledge does Hester feel the Scarlet Letter gives her?
10. Identify at least one paradox.

NOTES:

branded the brow of Cain: In Genesis, Cain was the older son of Adam and Eve and brother to Abel. When God accepted Abel’s sacrificial offering, but not Cain’s, Cain struck out in anger and murdered his brother. As punishment, Cain was banished from Eden (to the land of Nod, to the East) and cursed with a mark so that none would molest him.