

### Symbolism Chart

As you read *The Scarlet Letter*, complete the chart below. In the first column, list the symbols found in the novel. In the second column, provide the proper citation information. (page number, paragraph number, etc.). In the third column, describe the meaning of the symbols in the novel.

Symbol	Citation Information	Meaning
Rose bush	p. 73	Forgiveness, new start, grace; ironic that it is next to the prison door
Prison door	p. 73	The harsh justice of the Puritans
Hester has "black" eyes	p. 81	Black represents sin, and Hester's appearance with her black eyes represents her as a sinner
Black glove	p. 237	Chillingworth gives Dimmesdale his black glove that had fallen and says, "Satan dropped it there". Black represents the dark side of life: the devil and sin
Pearl's letter "A"	chapter 15	Pearl's "A" demonstrates her innocence as she makes it and wears it without knowing what it stands for. It also prompts Hester, for the first time, to lie about her own letter. So it reveals Hester's shame.
Letter "A" formed by meteor	p. 231	When Dimmesdale sees the "A" in the meteor, he thinks God is seeing the "disease in his own eye and heart" as he stands with his family. The community see the "a" and take it to stand for "angel" for the recently deceased governor.

The sunshine	chapter 15	The sun refuses to shine on Hester and only shines on Pearl. It represents the hope that is absent from Hester's future but present for little Pearl's future life.
"black flower"	p. 261	Dimmesdale describes him and Hester's fate as a "black flower", saying "It is our fate. Let the black flower blossom as it may!" This symbolizes that their fate has been tarnished by their sin.
The brook	chapter 15	The brook symbolizes a sad and unhappy life or melancholy personality. Pearl says, "Oh brook! Oh foolish and tiresome little brook...Why art thou sad?"
The forest	throughout chapters 15-19	Hawthorne uses words like "impalpable earth" to describe the forest which supports the idea that the forest could symbolize a place where Hester and Pearl could be free from the influence of her sin and honest. This setting is unattainable just like the earth in the forest is "impalpable."
"blacken" fame	p. 377	Chillingworth tells Dimmesdale, "Cast off this child. All shall be well! Do not blacken your fame, and perish in dishonor! I can yet save you!" as Dimmesdale begins to confess his sin

		to the crowd. The word "blacken" again means sin and a sign of the devil.
Scarlet letter	Throughout novel	At first, it symbolizes Hester's sin of adultery, but through the novel it shifts to standing for "able" because of Hester's hard work
Pearl	Throughout novel	Hester's daughter is a symbol of her adultery, but symbolizes the "pearl of great price" that Hester had to pay suffering in childbirth and that she gave up everything to have her.