

### Character Development Chart

Locate quotations or descriptions in *The Scarlet Letter* for the following characters, which reveal aspects of their personality and how they feel about the central ideas and the events of the story.

| Character     | Character Description   | Character Development  | How Character Development Reveals or Connects to a Central Idea   |
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| Hester Prynne | <p>Ch 1-5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Malefactress"</li> <li>• "Female criminal"</li> <li>• "Young woman, natural dignity and force of character"</li> <li>• Actions appear to be of her own free will</li> <li>• Beautiful young woman</li> <li>• A on chest for her sin</li> <li>• Strong, kind, proud, humble, and honest</li> </ul> <p>Ch 6-10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Day after day she looked fearfully into the child's expanding nature, ever dreading</li> </ul> | <p>Ch 1-5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Isolates herself</li> <li>• Covers her beauty with a hat</li> <li>• Distanced from everyone, raises her child alone</li> <li>• Honest and truthful</li> </ul> <p>Ch 6-10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hester is really worried about Pearl and trying to be a good mother. She is clearly a good person.</li> <li>• She also cares about Dimmesdale.</li> </ul> | <p>Ch 1-5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This connects to a central idea by showing that Hester stands out. She is different in a good way.</li> <li>• Most people in this society conform to others, but Hester is herself. She is trying not to completely change.</li> </ul> <p>Ch 6-10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hester's dedication to raising Pearl shows that she feels the burden of her sin enough to support Pearl almost as retribution.</li> </ul> |

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|  | <p>to detect some dark and wild peculiarity..."<br/>Ch 11-15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Manly"/dispassionate</li> <li>• Courageous</li> <li>• Loving</li> <li>• Sacrificial</li> </ul> <p>Ch 16-23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reassured</li> <li>• Brave</li> <li>• Content</li> </ul> | <p>Ch 11-15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hester is deeply depressed as she sees the effects of her secret-keeping on Dimmesdale.</li> <li>• She cares only about Dimmesdale and is willing to sacrifice her own comfort for him.</li> </ul> <p>Ch 16-23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hester has learned to accept the scarlet letter's weight.</li> <li>• She wants to run away with Dimmesdale.</li> <li>• She is aggravated at his inability to accept his sin as being forgiven.</li> <li>• She lives a happy life with Pearl before moving home to help other young women.</li> </ul> | <p>Ch 11-15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hester's caring attitude contrasts with Dimmesdale's selfishness and Chillingworth's evil nature to reveal the central idea of hypocrisy as she is the one not accepted by society.</li> </ul> <p>Ch 16-23</p> <p>Hester is finally leaving the judgmental Puritan community. She is breaking away from the religious ideas that judged her and marked her. She eventually comes to terms with her sin after Dimmesdale confesses which shows that secret sin can destroy while confession is beneficial.</p> |
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| Chillingworth | <p>Ch 1-5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-existent</li> <li>• Chill (cold)</li> <li>• Secretive</li> <li>• Cunning</li> </ul>                | <p>Ch 1-5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Back home unexpectedly</li> <li>• Angry at Hester for cheating</li> <li>• Makes Hester promise not to tell who he is.</li> </ul>   | <p>Ch 1-5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chillingworth is evil and devilish. He comes and goes when he pleases, and the entire Puritan society seems to approve of him despite his evil nature. This connects to the central idea of hypocrisy.</li> </ul> |
|               | <p>Ch 6-10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Appears" good.</li> <li>• "Helps" Dimmesdale.</li> <li>• Most everyone thinks he is fine.</li> </ul> | <p>Ch 6-10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chillingworth develops a more specific role in chapter 10 as he symbolizes the devil and a leech.</li> <li>• He completely harms Dimmesdale and sucks the life out of him.</li> </ul> | <p>Ch 6-10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The central idea the author is making about the flaws of the Puritans deals with Chillingworth. He shows how the devil is present in the society. Always there.</li> </ul>                                       |
|               | <p>Ch 11-15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evil</li> <li>• Vengeful</li> <li>• Scheming</li> <li>• Deceitful</li> </ul>                         | <p>Ch 11-15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chillingworth is increasingly obsessed with getting revenge on Dimmesdale. He continues to look more and more dark-faced and evil as the need for vengeance consumes him.</li> </ul> | <p>Ch 11-15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hester's caring attitude contrasts with Dimmesdale's selfishness and Chillingworth's evil nature to reveal the central idea of hypocrisy as she is the one not accepted by society.</li> </ul>                  |
|               | <p>Ch 16-23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vengeful</li> <li>• Cunning</li> <li>• Evil</li> <li>• Corrupt</li> </ul>                            | <p>Ch 16-23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dimmesdale begins rejecting him which seems to make him more determined for revenge.</li> </ul>  | <p>Ch 16-23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chillingworth's death after his vengeance his taken from him shows again the weight of a secret sin on a person.</li> </ul>   |

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| Dimmesdale | <p>Ch 1-5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revered pastor</li> <li>• Sad man</li> <li>• "Dim"</li> <li>• Depressed</li> </ul>   | <p>Ch 1-5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He has no real connection to other characters.</li> <li>• Everyone in the town looks up to him, but he seems lonely and sad.</li> </ul>   | <p>Ch 1-5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He is the ideal man of Puritan society, but he seems sad. Shows how the society is bad.</li> </ul>   |
|            | <p>Ch 6-10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Paleness of his cheek"</li> <li>• "emaciated"</li> <li>• "Too earnest devotion"</li> <li>• Very ill man</li> </ul>             | <p>Ch 6-10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He grows weaker and sicker throughout the chapters.</li> <li>• He's clearly hiding something from Chillingworth.</li> </ul>  | <p>Ch 6-10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dimmesdale's developing illness is the author's way of showing that Dimmesdale is collapsing under the stress of what he has done. His secret weighs too heavily on him.</li> </ul>             |
|            | <p>Ch 11-15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weak</li> <li>• Cowardly</li> <li>• Unintelligent/ "Dim"</li> </ul>  | <p>Ch 11-15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dimmesdale is continuing to get more and more sick. He also refuses to really acknowledge Hester in public, but also refuses to forgive her at first in private.</li> </ul>           | <p>Ch 11-15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hester's caring attitude contrasts with Dimmesdale's selfishness and Chillingworth's evil nature to reveal the central idea of hypocrisy as she is the one not accepted by society.</li> </ul> |
|            | <p>Ch 16-23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delusional</li> <li>• Paranoid</li> <li>• Miserable</li> <li>• Self-pitying</li> <li>• Torn</li> <li>• Hypocritical</li> </ul> | <p>Ch 16-23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children avoid Dimmesdale as if they know his secret. Dimmesdale really start to question if he sold his soul to the Black Man.</li> <li>• Freaked out by his encounter by</li> </ul> | <p>Ch 16-23</p> <p>Dimmesdale's situation is ironic as he is a Puritan minister that had an affair. He is the biggest symbol of hypocrisy in the novel. His eventual death connects to the idea that secret sin is destructive.</p>                     |

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|       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At peace</li> </ul>  | <p>Mistress Hibbins, he also learns to accept his feelings towards Pearl and Hester.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finally denying them no longer and confessing his sin on the scaffold.</li> </ul>  |   |
| Pearl | <p>Ch 1-5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Baby</li> <li>Innocent</li> <li>Unaware</li> </ul> <p>Ch 6-10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Age 3, then 7</li> <li>"Bright complexion"</li> <li>"Luxuriant beauty"</li> </ul> <p>Ch 11-15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intelligent</li> <li>Kind</li> </ul> | <p>Ch 1-5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pearl asks a lot of questions which reveal information about her mother.</li> </ul> <p>Ch 6-10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People consider Pearl to be an "imp," but she seems very intuitive.</li> </ul> <p>Ch 11-15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pearl insightfully connects her mother's scarlet letter to Dimmesdale's illness.</li> </ul> | <p>Ch 1-5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pearl is punished for her mother's crime as an INFANT. This shows how messed up/hypocritical the Puritan society was.</li> </ul> <p>Ch 6-10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pearl is Hester's love and reason for being. Pearl often reaches for the scarlet letter A Hester wears which emphasizes the central idea of secret sin and its effects.</li> </ul> <p>Ch 11-15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pearl, the product of adultery, is the smartest, most intuitive character. This connects to the idea of hypocrisy.</li> </ul> |

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|  | <p>Ch 16-23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Observant</li> <li>• Sassy</li> <li>• Smart</li> <li>• Drawn to nature</li> <li>• Truthful</li> <li>• Doesn't like Dimmesdale</li> <li>• Innocent</li> </ul> | <p>Ch 16-23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• She throws a fit over the fact that Hester is no longer wearing the scarlet A.</li> <li>• She doesn't like Dimmesdale and connects him to her mom/ her letter.</li> <li>• She is being brought along with Hester and Dimmesdale when they run away to Europe.</li> </ul> | <p>Ch 16-23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pearl is described as still having hope for the future, and this is proven true as she is the character with the happiest ending.</li> <li>• After receiving Chillingworth's fortune, she lives an almost happy life. This shows that the price of sin (which Pearl represents) is not necessarily trapped into death.</li> </ul> |
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