

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Hester Prynne's Arrival and the Scarlet Letter: Chapters 1-4

### Short Answer Key

1. In the market-place, Hester Prynne endures public humiliation as she stands on the scaffold with her infant daughter, Pearl. The townspeople judge her harshly, speculating about the identity of Pearl's father. Despite the judgment, Hester maintains her composure and dignity, refusing to reveal the father's name.
2. Hester Prynne was married to a scholar from England but arrived in America ahead of him. Years passed without any word from her husband, leading her to believe he had perished at sea. Her affair with another man during this time resulted in her pregnancy and subsequent punishment.
3. Roger Chillingworth arrives in the settlement as a physician but is actually Hester Prynne's estranged husband. He seeks revenge on the man who wronged Hester, believed to be the father of her child. Chillingworth's motives drive him to disguise his true identity and become a vengeful antagonist.
4. The scarlet letter "A" worn by Hester symbolizes her sin of adultery and serves as a mark of shame and public judgment. The scaffold represents a place of public humiliation and punishment. These symbols shape the events and characters in the novel, emphasizing themes of sin, judgment, and redemption.
5. Hester's refusal to reveal the identity of Pearl's father creates curiosity and speculation among the townspeople. Some view her silence as a sign of strength and defiance, while others see it as a form of guilt. Hester's silence adds to the mystery surrounding her and Pearl.

