

Name _____

Reckoning and Redemption: Chapters 15-19 of 'The Scarlet Letter'

Short Answer Key

1. The forest serves as a symbol of freedom and transformation, contrasting with the strict moral codes of the Puritan settlement. In the forest, characters can express their true emotions and confront their innermost thoughts and secrets.
2. In Chapter 15, Hester sees the scarlet letter "A" as a symbol of shame and sin, while Pearl sees it as a symbol of beauty and fascination.
3. Reverend Dimmesdale experiences intense guilt and internal conflict in Chapter 18, as he grapples with the decision to publicly confess his sins. His emotional turmoil is exacerbated by the arrival of Governor Bellingham and other townspeople.
4. Pearl serves as a mediator between her parents in Chapter 19, bringing them together through her innocent and wise observations. Her role helps facilitate the emotional reconciliation between Hester and Dimmesdale.
5. In Chapter 17, Hester and Dimmesdale have a candid conversation in the forest, where they confront their shared guilt and reflect on their past. They discuss their feelings of love and longing, as well as their sense of responsibility for their actions.

