

Name _____

The Unveiling of Secrets: Chapters 9-14 of 'The Scarlet Letter'

Short Answer Key

1. Roger Chillingworth's nickname, "the leech," reflects his role in the Puritan community as a physician and healer. However, it also symbolizes his relentless pursuit of Reverend Dimmesdale's secrets, as a leech clings to its host, seeking to uncover hidden truths.
2. Roger Chillingworth's growing suspicion and obsession strain his relationship with Reverend Dimmesdale. Chillingworth becomes increasingly focused on uncovering Dimmesdale's secret, which creates tension and mistrust between them.
3. Reverend Dimmesdale experiences inner turmoil characterized by intense guilt and self-punishment. He physically harms himself as a form of penance, with self-inflicted lash marks on his chest. These manifestations reflect the weight of his concealed sin.
4. Reverend Dimmesdale's vigil on the scaffold symbolizes his internal struggle and desire for public confession. However, he ultimately decides against confessing his sins to the townspeople, choosing to continue bearing his guilt in secret.
5. In Chapter 13, Hester Prynne gains respect from the townspeople due to her charitable work, sewing skills, and dignified demeanor. She maintains her independence while navigating her role as a single mother in the community.

