

Name _____

Discovering Hester Prynne: A Character Analysis

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Hester Prynne's ability to adapt and find a way forward reflects her resilience and determination. It shapes her character by illustrating her strength in the face of adversity and her capacity to rise above societal judgment. This adaptability also allows her to provide for herself and her daughter, Pearl, showcasing her resourcefulness.
2. The scarlet letter "A" initially symbolizes guilt and shame for Hester Prynne, marking her as an adulterer and a sinner. However, as the novel progresses, it takes on additional meanings, such as her ability to find strength and resilience in the face of judgment, transforming it from a symbol of shame to a symbol of her inner fortitude.
3. Hester's relationship with her daughter, Pearl, highlights her character traits of love and resilience. Hester's unwavering love for Pearl is evident in her actions, as she nurtures and protects her despite the challenges they face. This relationship underscores Hester's capacity for maternal love and her determination to provide the best life possible for her child.
4. Hester Prynne displays moral strength and resilience in the face of societal judgment and hypocrisy. Despite being condemned and isolated by the Puritan community, she maintains her dignity and integrity. Her ability to endure public shame while remaining true to herself exemplifies her moral fortitude.

