

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Scarlet Letter Characters and Their Roles

### Short Answer Key

1. Hester Prynne's primary challenge is dealing with the public humiliation and judgment for committing adultery while also trying to protect the identity of her child's father.
2. Pearl symbolizes both the consequences of Hester's actions because she is a living reminder of the sin, and a source of joy in Hester's life because she brings light and happiness to her mother's existence.
3. Roger Chillingworth's obsession is to discover the identity of Hester's secret lover and seek revenge against him. This obsession consumes him and drives the story's events.
4. Governor Bellingham represents the strict authority of the Puritan society, enforcing its moral code and judging those who go against it.
5. Mistress Hibbins contrasts with other characters as a symbol of the town's superstitions and fears, representing the darker aspects of the society beneath its facade of righteousness.

