

Name _____

Unraveling the Secrets of The Scarlet Letter

Short Answer Key

1. The scarlet letter "A" symbolizes Hester Prynne's sin of adultery and her public punishment.
2. Hester Prynne transforms from a symbol of shame and isolation to a symbol of strength and resilience, as she learns to find kindness within herself and provide for her daughter, Pearl.
3. An example of hypocrisy is seen in the character of Reverend Arthur Dimmesdale, who preaches morality while concealing his own involvement in Hester's sin.
4. Reverend Arthur Dimmesdale struggles with intense guilt and conflict over his hidden role in Hester's sin, which leads to his deteriorating health.
5. The central message of hope and redemption in "The Scarlet Letter" is that individuals have the capacity to change and find redemption, even in the face of societal judgment and hardship.

