1. What is “the black flower of civilized society”? prison

2. Who is Ann Hutchinson and what does Hawthorne associate her with? Banished as an Antinomian from Massachusetts in 1637; associated with rose bush near prison door

3. What is an Antinomian? a religious liberal who believed in individual relationships with God

4. After she is released from jail, where do Hester and Pearl live? In an abandoned cottage on the outskirts of town

5. Identify Hester, Pearl, Dimmesdale, Chillingworth, Ann Hutchinson, Governor Winthrop, Governor Bellingham, Mistress Hibbins, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Rev. Wilson, Master Brackett,

6. Where and when does the novel take place? Boston, 1642-1649

7. During what month does the opening scene occur? How is this ironic? June; should represent happiness, but is a very gloomy time for Hester; also the images of the beautiful rosebush and the summer month contrast with the grim Puritans

8. How long does Hester have to stand on the scaffold? Three hours

9. What is Roger Chillingworth’s actual surname? Prynne

10. What is a Utopia? imaginary place where everything is good

11. How do the ladies of the town feel about Hester’s punishment? Most of them believe it is too lenient; suggest branding her with a hot iron or even executing her

12. As Hester stands on the scaffold she reminisces about her childhood and her past, what does she remembers? her marriage to Chillingworth, her mother and father, the family’s coat of arms, her own youth and beauty

13. What explanation does Hester’s husband give her for his two year absence? He had been in Indian captivity

14. What is the one occasion for which Hester is never asked to make clothing? Weddings

15. Why does Hester stay in Boston even though her punishment does not require her to do so? She sometimes dreams that she could be with her lover again (though she tries to repel this thought); this is where her “defining moment”/her sin occurred and so she is connected to it as with “iron links”; remaining will be part of her penance

16. What do the townspeople believe to be wrong with Pearl? She is a demon child.

17. When the townspeople want to take Pearl away from Hester, who argues on Hester’s behalf? Rev. Dimmesdale

18. What is the result when the Rev. Dimmesdale tells his congregation that he is the worst of sinners? They respect him even more.

19. What are some ways Dimmesdale tries to atone for his sins? long prayer vigils; whipping himself; fasting; standing on the scaffold

20. Why does Hester pity Chillingworth? He has allowed hatred to destroy the kindness in him.

21. What gesture of Dimmesdale's does Pearl repeatedly associate with her mother's scarlet letter? He keeps his hand over his heart.

22. What piece of unwelcome news does the master of the ship on which she, Pearl, and Dimmesdale are to sail have for Hester? Chillingworth will be traveling with them.

23. What is noticeable about Dimmesdale as he walks in the procession on the day of his Election Sermon? He has more energy.

24. Where does Hester stand during the procession and during Dimmesdale's sermon in the church? near the scaffold

25. What does Dimmesdale do that finally releases him from Chillingworth? Publicly acknowledges his relationship with Hester

26. What happens to Chillingworth at the end of the novel? He wastes away/shrivels up and dies within a year of Dimmesdale’s confession.

27. What most likely happens to Pearl at the end of the novel? She lives in England/Europe; she marries well and has a child.

28. What happens to Hester at the end of the novel?She continues to live in the cottage near the sea and to wear the scarlet letter; she helps the needy; when she dies she is buried near Dimmesdale.

29. Identify the following symbols: weeds (sin); daytime (exposure); nighttime (concealment); forest (nature’s freedom away from restrictions and laws of Puritan society); brook (sorrow); rosebush (beauty/hope); sunlight/sunshine (truth, goodness, innocence); Hester’s cottage (isolation); Gov. Bellingham’s house (hypocrisy; luxury)

30. Know the following allusions and their meaning in the novel: the pearl of great price; mark on the brow of Cain; the Daniel who shall expound it; Lethe nor Nepenthe; David and Bathsheba