

Name: _____ Period: _____

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The Scarlet Letter – Chapter 12 – The Minister

Answer the following questions to track Hawthorne's use of symbolism. Use complete sentences and thorough explanations to answer each question fully.

2 pnts

1. Where does Dimmesdale go at the beginning of the chapter? How does Dimmesdale's destination contribute to his symbolism?

1 pnt

2. Hawthorne writes that Dimmesdale acts with "the agony of heaven defying guilt and vain repentance." What does this mean?

1 pnt

3. What imagery and objects does Hawthorne attribute to Dimmesdale's shriek? Do you think that they are significant to Dimmesdale's symbolism?

2 pnts

4. Describe Dimmesdale's interaction with Mr. Wilson? What does this tell the reader about Dimmesdale's condition?

2 pnts

5. Compare and contrast Dimmesdale's and Pearl's laughs while Dimmesdale stands upon the scaffold. How do their laughs represent them as a character?

2pts

6. Where does Dimmesdale want Hester and Pearl to join him? What is your reaction to Dimmesdale's request?

1 pnt

7. Explain what causes Dimmesdale and Pearl to see the scaffold differently?

1 pnts

8. What does Dimmesdale's guilt cause him to see in the sky? Why is his guilt significant to what he sees?

1 pnt

9. What secrets are Dimmesdale, Hester, and Chillingworth hiding?

1 pnt

10. Why is Dimmesdale able to give such an emotionally moving sermon the next day?

2pts

11. What is your impression of Dimmesdale by the end of the chapter? Use examples from the book to support your point (no quote needed).