
Chapter 20 Post Reading Handout

Directions: *Reread Chapter 20 of The Scarlet Letter with a partner and answer the following questions.*

1. Fill in the timeline with Dimmesdale's main actions in this chapter.

- *Dimmesdale leaves the forest, looking behind as he walks away and thinking of Hester and Pearl.*

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- *Dimmesdale throws his election sermon in the fire and begins writing a new one.*
2. Dimmesdale moves a lot in this chapter. In the chart, first right down all the settings Dimmesdale inhabits. Then make notes as to his mental state in each setting.

Setting	Mental State

How does Hawthorne develop settings in this chapter to convey a central idea? Use the text to support your response.

3. Consider the transformation unfolding in Dimmesdale. What events illustrate his internal struggle? Use textual evidence to support your response.

What is the significance of Mistress Hibbins's conversation with him? Use textual evidence to support your response.

4. In *The Scarlet Letter*, how does the Puritan society's definition of "sin" influence/ affect Dimmesdale? Hester?
How does this convey a central idea of the text?

5. How do the events of chapter 20 demonstrate the interaction of hypocrisy and conformity in *The Scarlet Letter*? What does Hawthorne seem to be saying about this interaction?
