Name: AP11

**Scarlet Letter Chapter 12**

Symbolism of the meteor:

a)

b)

c)

How the meteor is interpreted by Mr. Dimmesdale vs the sexton and townspeople

What does the interpretation say about the person/people?

**Scarlet Letter Chapter 13**

Annotate the passage for rhetorical devices, theme, tone, etc.

The effect of the symbol—or rather, of the position in respect to society that was indicated by it—on the mind of Hester Prynne herself, was powerful and peculiar. All the light and graceful foliage of her character had been withered up by this red-hot brand, and had long ago fallen away, leaving a bare and harsh outline, which might have been repulsive, had she possessed friends or companions to be repelled by it. Even the attractiveness of her person had undergone a similar change. It might be partly owing to the studied austerity of her dress, and partly to the lack of demonstration in her manners. It was a sad transformation, too, that her rich and luxuriant hair had either been cut off, or was so completely hidden by a cap, that not a shining lock of it ever once gushed into the sunshine. It was due in part to all these causes, but still more to something else, that there seemed to be no longer anything in Hester’s face for Love to dwell upon; nothing in Hester’s form, though majestic and statue-like, that Passion would ever dream of clasping in its embrace; nothing in Hester’s bosom, to make it ever again the pillow of Affection. Some attribute had departed from her, the permanence of which had been essential to keep her a woman. Such is frequently the fate, and such the stern development, of the feminine character and person, when the woman has encountered, and lived through, an experience of peculiar severity. If she be all tenderness, she will die. If she survive, the tenderness will either be crushed out of her, or—and the outward semblance is the same—crushed so deeply into her heart that it can never show itself more. The latter is perhaps the truest theory. She who has once been woman, and ceased to be so, might at any moment become a woman again, if there were only the magic touch to effect the transformation. We shall see whether Hester Prynne were ever afterwards so touched, and so transfigured.

**Scarlet Letter Chapter 17**

An author’s implicit beliefs are often apparent by small comments made throughout a text. Analyze each following quotation, then explain what you think the author is saying about people or humanity in general.

1. “There is no substance in it! It is cold and dead, and can do nothing for me! Of

penance I have had enough! Of penitence there has been none! Else, I should long

ago have thrown off these garments of mock holiness, and have shown myself to

mankind as they will see me at the judgment seat. Happy are you, Hester, that wear

the scarlet letter openly on your bosom! Mine burns in secret!

1. Begin all anew!...There is good to be done! Exchange this false life of thine for a

true one. Be, if they spirit thee to such a mission, the teacher and apostle of the red

men. Or,‐‐as is more thy nature, be a scholar and sage the wisest and most

renowned of the cultivated world. Preach! Write! Act!”

**Scarlet Letter Chapter 18**

Analyze how the symbol in the following quotation contributes to the **author’s** philosophy about the past.

“Let us not look back,” answered Hester Prynne. “The past is gone!

Wherefore should we linger upon it now? See! With this symbol, I undo it all, and

make it as if it had never been!”

So speaking, she undid the clasp that fastened the scarlet letter, and, taking it

from her bosom, threw it to a distance among the withered leaves.