

Name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

SCORE/GRADE:

WORLDVIEW: *The Scarlet Letter*

Study questions 9a. through 9c. in the Worldview Socratic List. Answer the questions with respect to this story in your own notes. Then, in the lines below, answer the following question in a single paragraph, using the details of the story to support and explain your response. For page-length answers, attach a separate sheet if necessary.

***Do the story's answers to these questions
tell the truth as the author saw it?***

Possible student response:

Hawthorne addresses the subject of human love within the framework of his narrative. Through the relationship between Hester and Dimmesdale, he suggests that disordered loves cause human misery. When Hester and Dimmesdale elevate their passion above obedience to God's law, they reap sorrow. Only a renewed submission to God in the form of true penitence restores their relationship to one another and to the community. Likewise, Chillingworth represents love perverted. When his love is betrayed, his passion turns inward and produces malevolent hatred. Finally, Hester and Dimmesdale experience divine love and mercy in the person of little Pearl, whose name alludes to the allegorical Pearl of great price Jesus devised in His biblical parable. Intrinsic in her, whom Hawthorne dubs the "scarlet letter, living," dwells the love of God for man – judgment and mercy. A constant reminder of her mother's sin, Pearl refuses to acknowledge those who will not acknowledge her. She requires ruthless truth, but lavishes love and mercy on the confessor. Pearl becomes an image of the biblical Kingdom principle: mercy for penitent sinners and grace to those humble in heart.