<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Static or Dynamic?</th>
<th>Round or Flat?</th>
<th>Protagonist or Antagonist?</th>
<th>Give one example of how each character is <em>directly</em> characterized (include page number and description)</th>
<th>Give one example of how each character is <em>indirectly</em> characterized (include page number and description)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hester Prynne</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pearl</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arthur Dimmesdale</td>
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<td>Roger Chillingworth</td>
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<td>Mistress Hibbons</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Townspeople</td>
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</table>
**Chapters 7 – 9**  
**Active Reading Guide**

*Directions*: As you read Chapters 7-9 of *The Scarlet Letter*, examine each character’s motivation and actions, completing the chart below. For help, refer to page 25.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plot Points</th>
<th>Prynne</th>
<th>Dimmesdale</th>
<th>Chillingworth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Motivation</td>
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<td>Prediction</td>
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<td>Connection</td>
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<td>Questions</td>
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</table>
Chapters 7 – 9
Comprehension Check

Directions: As you read each chapter, answer the following questions on a separate piece of paper using complete sentences.

Chapter 7
1. Why does Hester go to the Governor’s house?
2. What does the author say is remarkable about Pearl and her clothes?
3. Who do Hester and Pearl encounter on their way to the Governor’s house? What interaction takes place?
4. Briefly describe the Governor’s hall.
5. What does Pearl want from the Governor’s garden? What does she do when she doesn’t get it? What stops her behavior?

Chapter 8
1. Who is with the Governor when he meets with Hester?
2. What does Mr. Wilson ask Pearl and what does she say?
3. Who speaks on behalf of Hester at the Governor’s house? What does he say?
4. What does the Governor decide about letting Hester raise Pearl? Explain.
5. Who approaches Hester when she leaves the Governor’s house and what does she say?

Chapter 9
1. What is Chillingworth’s position in the community?
2. How has Dimmesdale’s physical appearance changed?
3. To what does Chillingworth devote all his efforts?
4. What does the window at the home that Chillingworth and Dimmesdale share look out over?
5. What physical changes is Chillingworth going through?
6. What do the townspeople think is happening to Dimmesdale?
Chapters 7 – 9

Standards Focus: Conflict

In fiction, dramatic action depends on what is known as conflict. Conflict, or the obstacles a character faces, is one of the most important elements of literature because conflict is what makes a character take action in the story. Since a character is facing a force of opposition, the conflict in a story makes the reader pick a side, whether it is with the protagonist or the antagonist. Without conflict, the plot of a story would simply be a sequence of events with no consequences and no interesting or exciting changes. There are three main types of conflict, at least one of which can be easily found in every novel.

- **man vs. man** – a character in the novel struggles against another character, society, or an organization
- **man vs. nature** – a character in the novel struggles against the forces of nature or fate; nature can be anything ranging from fire, to rain, to treacherous mountains, or a force as abstract as destiny
- **man vs. self** – one of the characters in the novel struggles with an internal problem that only he or she can resolve by looking inward, usually at a decision that needs to be made or at feelings that need to be worked out

Conflict is further divided into two categories: internal and external conflict. **Internal conflict** is the struggle of a character’s emotions or decisions—man vs. self. **External conflict**, on the other hand, is beyond a character’s control and happens externally; this includes man vs. nature and man vs. man. A conflict can also be either part of the main plot (main conflict), or just another obstacle on the way to the major point of the story (subordinate conflict).

**Directions**: Complete the following exercise with evidence from the novel or from your pre-reading activities (Puritanism, Crime and Punishment in Puritan Society, or Life as a Puritan). For part a, indicate the type of conflict, and whether this conflict is internal or external. For part b, specify the opposing forces involved. For part c, choose a specific example (including source and page number) from the text(s) which clearly reveals the conflict between these opposing forces. Finally, for part d, indicate whether this conflict is a main conflict or a subordinate conflict within the plot. An example has been done for you.

Ex. Hester stands on the scaffold as the townspeople stare and yell at her.

a. Type of conflict/Internal or External: **man vs. man, external**

b. Opposing Forces: **Hester versus the people of Salem**

c. Example: “At the very least, they should have put the brand of a hot iron on Hester Prynne’s forehead.” *(The Scarlet Letter, pg. 47)*

d. Main or Subordinate: **Main**

1. The Puritans try to convince the Church of England to reform.

   a. Type of Conflict/Internal or External: ____________________________

   b. Opposing Forces: ____________________________

   c. Example: ____________________________

   d. Main or Subordinate: ____________________________
2. The Puritans must set up a new home in a foreign land after crossing the ocean.
   a. Type of Conflict/Internal or External: ________________________________
   b. Opposing Forces: _________________________________________________
   c. Example: __________________________________________________________
   d. Main or Subordinate: ______________________________________________

3. As Hester’s punishment, she must wear the scarlet letter on her chest so she will always remember her sin and the consequences of her actions.
   a. Type of Conflict/Internal or External: ________________________________
   b. Opposing Forces: _________________________________________________
   c. Example: __________________________________________________________
   d. Main or Subordinate: ______________________________________________

4. The Puritans think that the Indians inhabiting the areas around their town are savages.
   a. Type of Conflict/Internal or External: ________________________________
   b. Opposing Forces: _________________________________________________
   c. Example: __________________________________________________________
   d. Main or Subordinate: ______________________________________________

5. Hester must hide Chillingworth’s true identity so that she can live freely with Pearl.
   a. Type of Conflict/Internal or External: ________________________________
   b. Opposing Forces: _________________________________________________
   c. Example: __________________________________________________________
   d. Main or Subordinate: ______________________________________________

6. Hester pleads to Governor Bellingham to allow her to keep and raise Pearl.
   a. Type of Conflict/Internal or External: ________________________________
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. Opposing Forces:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Example:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Main or Subordinate:</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

7. Dimmesdale suffers in great agony over the physical pain in his heart.
   a. Type of Conflict/Internal or External: |
   b. Opposing Forces: |
   c. Example: |
   d. Main or Subordinate: |

8. Hester refuses to reveal the name of her former lover to the magistrates.
   a. Type of Conflict/Internal or External: |
   b. Opposing Forces: |
   c. Example: |
   d. Main or Subordinate: |

9. Mistress Hibbins is convicted of being a witch and is put to death after the novel ends.
   a. Type of Conflict/Internal or External: |
   b. Opposing Forces: |
   c. Example: |
   d. Main or Subordinate: |

10. Chillingworth resolves to make Dimmesdale feel as guilty as possible for his sin.
    a. Type of Conflict/Internal or External: |
    b. Opposing Forces: |
    c. Example: |
    d. Main or Subordinate: |