

Scarlet Letter: Chapters 4-6

Vocabulary:

- Efficacy
- Expostulation
- Emolument
- Ascetic
- Diffusion
- Contumaciously
- Incredulity
- Mutability
- Caprice
- Enmity
- Requite
- Anathema
- Preternatural
- Dearth

Allusions

- Lethe and Nepenthe
- Paracelsus
- Cain

1. Many of Hawthorne's allusions are Biblical, but some are also Greek. What is the importance of Hawthorne's inclusion of both Greek and Biblical allusions?

Questions:

1. What is Hester and Roger Chillingworth's relationship to one another?
2. In Chapter 4 Chillingworth convinces Hester to keep their relationship a secret. Outline Chillingworth's argument. Given your knowledge of rhetorical devices and argument, is Chillingworth's argument convincing? Explain.
3. To whom does Hester liken Chillingworth?
4. What does Hester fear of Pearl? List specific examples.
5. In what way is Pearl depicted as being somehow irreligious or against God? Why is this important? Give specific examples.