

2015-2016 ENGLISH HONORS III SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

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You are to read 1984, Brave New World and Scarlet Letter and respond to each of the questions in writing. There is no need to recopy the questions, but make sure to place page and paragraph numbers next to your entries.

Study Guide for *1984*

Section One: Chapters I, II, III

1. Who is the main character? Briefly describe the main character.
2. What is the setting of the novel? Give the country and the city.
3. What are the three slogans of the Party? Write them the way they are shown in the novel.
4. What does the caption on the posters say?
5. Name each of the Ministries and explain its function. Also include the Newspeak name for each ministry.
6. What date does the main character record?
7. Describe the two people the main character sees just before the Two Minutes Hate.
8. Explain the importance of Emmanuel Goldstein. Also describe the way his image looks.
9. Explain the importance of Big Brother. Also describe the way his image looks.
10. What crime does the main character commit? How does he do this? What is the punishment?
11. What is the telescreen and how is it used?
12. Describe thoughtcrime and give an example.

Section One: IV, V, VI

1. What happens to the rewritten news articles after Winston puts them into the pneumatic tube? Why is this significant?
2. Winston thinks that what he does is not forgery. What does he think it is?
3. What is Winston's greatest pleasure in his life, and why is it so?
4. Describe the aim of Newspeak and how it works.
5. What is Syme's observation about Winston's appreciation of Newspeak?
6. Winston is at lunch when the message on the telescreen relates the good news about

increases in production, including that the chocolate ration has been raised to twenty grams a week. What is Winston thinking as he hears this message?

7. What is facecrime? Give an example.
8. Who is looking at Winston during lunch? How does this affect him?
9. What is the aim of the Party with regard to male-female relationships and sex?
10. What is the Party's policy on marriage, divorce, and children?

Section One: VII, VIII

1. Where does Winston think hope lies? Why?
2. What is the Party belief about the proles?
3. Describe the one time that Winston held real evidence of an act of falsification.
4. What bothers Winston the most, along with the sense of nightmare?
5. What bothers Winston more than the thought that he might be a lunatic?
6. What is the heresy of heresies? Why is that terrifying to Winston?
7. For whom does Winston realize he is writing his diary? Why?
8. What is the final, most essential command of the Party?
9. What does Winston write in his diary?
10. Describe what happens when Winston goes to the antique shop, and who he sees when he comes out.

Section Two: Chapters I, II, III, IV

1. Describe what happens when the girl with the dark hair falls on the floor.
2. What does the note say?
3. How does Winston feel about the message on the note?
4. Describe their next meeting.
5. Describe their meeting in Victory Square.
6. What emotions does Winston feel at first when the girl puts her arms around him? What emotion didn't he feel?
7. What is the girl's name?
8. Winston asks the girl what attracted her to him. What is her answer?
9. What does the girl tell Winston about her attitude toward the party?
10. Summarize Julia's explanation of the meaning of the Party's sexual puritanism.
11. According to Winston, how has the Party used the instinct of parenthood?
12. What does Winston do the next time he visits the little shop? Why?
13. What does Julia bring to their meeting?
14. How does Winston react when he sees the rat?

Section Two: V, VI, VII, VIII

1. Who has vanished?
2. How has Winston changed since he started coming to the little room with Julia?
3. What do Winston and Julia realize about their relationship?
4. What does Winston realize from talking to Julia about things he remembers?
5. Describe the meeting between Winston and O'Brien.
6. What does Winston think this meeting means?
7. What does Winston tell Julia the real betrayal will be when they are caught?
8. How does Winston say they can beat the Party?
9. Describe the meeting between O'Brien, Julia, and Winston at O'Brien's apartment.
10. What does O'Brien know that surprises Winston?

Section Two: IX, X

1. Why is Winston working such long hours?
2. According to The Book, what is the aim of modern warfare (in accordance with the principles of doublethink)?
3. According to The Book, what is really going on with the war, and why?

4. While Winston is reading Chapter 1 of *The Book*, he stops for a minute. Why does he stop reading?
5. How is the current government different than any previous governments? What invention enables it to be like this?
6. Explain the organization of the Party.
7. Explain the concept of doublethink.
8. What is the one thing that Winston and Julia know they will never do together?
9. While Winston and Julia are in the room, he says, “We are the dead,” and Julia repeats the phrase.
10. What does Winston discover about Mr. Charrington?

Section Three: Chapters I, II

1. Where is Winston as this section of the novel opens?
2. What is Winston Smith’s number?
3. Who is brought into the cell with Winston and why does he think he is there?
4. Who is brought into the cell next and why? Who denounced him? How does he feel about the arrest?
5. What is the number of the room where the guards take some of the prisoners? How do many of them react to this?
6. Who comes into the room next? What does Winston discover about this person?
7. Describe what is happening to Winston in Section Three: Chapter II, and who is doing this.
8. What does O’Brien tell Winston about Big Brother, the Party, and the Brotherhood?
9. What is the last question that Winston asks O’Brien in Chapter II? What is O’Brien’s answer?
10. Does Winston betray Julia in either of these chapters?

Section Three: III, IV, V, VI

1. According to O’Brien, what are the three stages of Winston’s reintegration?
2. What does Winston find out about *The Book*?
3. Winston learns why the Party seeks power. What is the reason?
4. How has Winston changed physically during his imprisonment? What does he do after he sees himself in the mirror?
5. What is Winston’s answer when O’Brien asks, “Can you think of a single degradation that has not happened to you?” How does O’Brien respond?
6. While Winston is exercising himself in Crimestop, he calls out, “Julia! Julia! Julia, my love! Julia!” What does this show about him? What happens to him as a result? Include his conversation in the room with O’Brien.
7. According to O’Brien, what is in Room 101 in general? What is this for Winston in particular?
8. Describe the scene with the cage. Tell what is in the cage. Tell the outcome of the scene.
9. Describe what happens when Winston and Julia meet after they have been released. Include the verse that Winston hears.
10. What is Winston thinking at the end of the novel?

Appendix, Afterword

1. What is Newspeak and what is its purpose?
2. Explain what is in the A vocabulary of Newspeak.
3. What two things about the grammar of Newspeak are peculiar?
4. Explain what is in the B vocabulary of Newspeak. Give examples.
5. What aspect of the B vocabulary outweighs almost all others?
6. Explain what is in the C vocabulary of Newspeak. Who uses this part of the language? For what is there no word? Why?
7. Describe duckspeak.
8. According to the Afterword, what are the mood and warning expressed in the novel *1984*?
9. With what real concept from the era around 1961 does Orwell connect the dictatorial society in *1984*?
10. In the Afterword, what point about doublethink is made?
11. According to the Afterword, what warning is Orwell giving anyone who reads *1984*?

SHORT ANSWER STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS - *Brave New World*

Chapters 1-3

1. Who is the D.H.C.?
2. What is Bokanovsky's Process?
3. Explain why Bokanovsky's Process is one of the major instruments of social stability.
4. What is the point of conditioning?
5. Why are the babies being conditioned to hate books and flowers?
6. How is the conditioning reinforced?
7. What is the name of the deity in this world?
8. Why is "mother" such an obscene word?
9. How is Bernard Marx different from his associates?
10. Why does Lenina want to go out with Bernard?
11. What is soma?

Chapters 4-6

1. How are Bernard and Helmholtz alike?
2. What is a Solidarity Service?
3. Why is Bernard unable to feel the oneness with his group?
4. How does Bernard want to spend his dates with Lenina?
5. Why does the Director threaten to send Bernard to Iceland?

Chapters 7-9

1. How are Linda and John different from the other savages?
2. Why is Lenina disgusted by Linda?
3. Why do the women whip Linda?
4. What things does Mitsima teach John?
5. What book does Pope bring for John?
6. Why do Bernard and John both feel alone?
7. To whom does John liken Lenina?

Chapters 10-13

1. How does Bernard humiliate the Director?
2. Why is everyone interested in John but not Linda?
3. How does Linda spend her time?
4. Why does John throw up?
5. What other "civilized" customs disgust John?
6. Why does John refuse to come to the party?
7. How does John's refusal affect Bernard?
8. How does Bernard react to his downfall?

Chapters 14-15

1. Why are children given treats when they visit the for the Dying?
2. Why is John's reaction to his mother's death inappropriate?
3. Why does John attempt to stop the soma distribution?

Chapters 16-18

1. What happens to Bernard and Helmholtz?
2. Why does the Controller say they should be happy to be banished?
3. Why are Shakespeare and scientific research banned?
4. What does John mean when he says, "I claim them all"?
5. Why does John drink mustard water?
6. Why does John torture himself?
7. To what end does John come?

The Scarlet Letter Study Questions

Chapter 1

What is the setting of *The Scarlet Letter*?

Why does Hawthorne begin the story with a reflection about the need for a cemetery and a prison?

What is the significance of the wild rosebush that grows beside the prison door?

Who was Ann Hutchinson?

What does Hawthorne achieve by his reference to “the sainted Ann Hutchinson?”

Chapter 2

On what note does this chapter begin?

What is Hawthorne saying about the Puritan women of the New World?

For what sin is Hester Payne condemned?

What is the Old Testament punishment for adultery?

What is the public view of Hester’s sin as expressed by the women outside the prison? What do their comments suggest about this society?

What is Hester’s punishment?

What is surprising about the “A” Hester has sewn for herself? What might this indicate?

What is accomplished by Hawthorne’s allusion to the Madonna and Child?

Considering the common use of physiognomy in pre-twentieth-century literature, what might Hawthorne be suggesting by portraying Hester as extremely beautiful?

What does the Flashback reveal about Hester’s past?

Chapter 3

What purpose does the conversation between the townsman and the stranger at the beginning of this chapter serve?

Why wasn’t Hester sentenced to death for her adultery?

Where has the stranger been? What motion does he make to Hester?

Who is Dimmsdale? What appeal does he use to convince Hester to reveal the baby’s father?

What is Hawthorne foreshadowing with the stranger’s prediction that the name of the father will eventually be disclosed?

What is ironic about Dimmesdale’s reaction to Hester’s refusal to name the father of her child?

Explain the allusion in the townsman’s telling Chillingworth, “that matter remaineth a riddle; and the Daniel who shall expound it is yet a-wanting.”

Chapter 4

Who does the stranger Hester recognized in the crowd that afternoon turn out to be?

Why does Hester fear Chillingworth?

Again, given the use of physiognomy in literature, what is Hawthorne suggesting by Chillingworth’s aged, deformed appearances?

Explain Chillingworth’s attitude toward Hester.

What does Chillingworth intend to do and why?

What does Chillingworth ask Hester to promise? Why does she agree?

What is foreshadowed by Chillingworth and Hester’s exchange at the end of the chapter?

Chapter 5

How is Hester’s emergence from the prison at the end of her confinement different from her emergence on the day she stood in public humiliation?

What traditional dichotomy does Hawthorne begin to establish with the location of Hester’s cottage?

Give two reasons why Hester decides to remain instead of moving to a less-restrictive colony.

How do the townspeople treat Hester, and how does she react?

How does Hester’s character evolve?

Describe the difference between Hester’s clothing and her child’s

What point is Hawthorne making about an individual's ability to separate oneself from one's wrongdoings?

Where do Hawthorne's sympathies lie? How do you know?

Chapter 6

What, according to the narrator, is ironic about Pearl's existence?

What is the significance of Pearl's name?

What is significant about Pearl's temperament?

Explain the ambiguity concerning Pearl's background.

Hester believes that, while society punishes her for sinning, God has a different reaction. How does Hester explain Pearl's existence?

Chapter 7

How sincerely concerned are the townspeople of Salem for the souls of Hester and Pearl?

Compare the Governor's garden with gardens in Old England. What is significant about the difference?

How is Pearl dressed, and what is her dress compared to?

Where else have we seen a rose bush in this novel?

What was its significance then?

Does it maintain the same significance here?

Chapter 8

Explain the puritan attitude toward luxury and how Governor Bellingham and the Reverend John Wilson responded to it.

How do the magistrates react to Pearl and why?

How does Hester behave towards the magistrates and why?

Why does Hester feel that Arthur Dimmsdale should speak on her behalf?

Why would Hawthorne have Pearl perform such an uncharacteristically tender action?

What does Chillingworth note about Dimmsdale's defense of Hester?

Describe how Dimmsdale has changed since Hester's public punishments.

Describe how Chillingworth has changed over the last few years.

What would Physiognomy suggest about Dimmsdale and Chillingworth?

Why would Hawthorne want to include Mistress Hibbins as a minor character in this book?

Chapter 9

Why doesn't Chillingworth assert his rights as Hester's husband?

A difference of opinions arises over the cause of Dimmsdale's failing health. Compare the townspeople's opinion to Dimmsdale's.

Why does Dimmsdale reject Chillingworth's offer of help? What finally persuades him to accept the offer?

Explain the ambiguity of the chapter's title, "The Leech."

The passage sets up an interesting contrast between two types of men. What is this contrast, and how is it likely to shape the future of the novel?

Describe Chillingworth's method for treating illness.

Describe the relationship between Dimmsdale and Chillingworth.

Some people in the community feel that God sent Chillingworth to heal their minister, but other people have a different view. Explain the second view about Chillingworth.

How do the people explain "the gloom and terror in the depths of the poor minister's eyes"?

What is suggested by the names Chillingworth and Dimmsdale?

Chapter 10

What is suspicious about Dimmsdale's position in his debate with Chillingworth about sin?

How do the black flowers initiate a discussion on hidden sins?

How does Dimmsdale's rationale for the confessing a hidden sin support the doctrine of salvation by works rather than salvation by faith?

What metaphors does Hawthorne establish for Chillingworth's probe? How do they further define Chillingworth's character?

What does Chillingworth mean when he mutters, "A strange sympathy betwixt soul and body"? Were it only for the art's sake, I must search this matter to the bottom!"?

What does Chillingworth do while Dimmesdale sleeps, and what does his action symbolize? Describe Chillingworth's reaction and what his response reveals about his character.

What do you suppose is the specific secret that Chillingworth discovers?

Chapter 11

Explain the statement, "He [Chillingworth] became, thenceforth, not a spectator only, but a chief actor, in the poor minister's interior world."

What is ironic about Dimmesdale's incredible success as a minister?

Why are Dimmesdale's public assertions of guilt ironic?

Explain the ways that Dimmesdale tortures himself.

Comparing Dimmesdale's current struggle with his sin with Hawthorne's earlier treatment of Hester and her sin, what is Hawthorne suggesting about the effects of sin?

What is ironic about Hawthorne's Portrayal of the Puritan society, in terms of this developing theme?

Chapter 12

How is the episode of Dimmesdale's midnight vigil on the scaffold structurally significant?

What is the significance of Pearl's challenge to Dimmesdale?

Considering the role of Nature in Anti-Transcendental literature, what is the significance of the meteor event?

Although Governor Winthrop is merely mentioned in the book, why would Hawthorne choose this night as the night Dimmesdale stands on the scaffold with Hester and Pearl?

How does Dimmesdale feel as he holds Pearl's hand and why?

Why does Pearl pull away from Dimmesdale?

What effect does Dimmesdale's vigil have on his career?

Chapter 13

What is significant about Hester's position in the community now that years have passed?

Compare the feelings of the general public to those of the community leaders regarding Hester Prynne.

Explain why the groups view her differently.

What social and philosophical changes in Hawthorne describing in this chapter?

Explain the statement: "It is remarkable, that persons who speculate the most boldly often conform with the most perfect quietude to the external regulations of society. The thought suffices them..."

Compare the initial intent behind the scarlet letter to the actual effect on Hester.

What does Hester resolve to do and why?

What is Hawthorne's point comparing Hester's and Dimmesdale's reactions to their sin?

What image is Hawthorne evoking with Chillingworth, old, one shoulder higher than the other, digging up roots and collecting leaves, etc. in the forest?

Chapter 14

Notice that Chillingworth is called a "leech" in the chapters in which he interacts with Dimmesdale, but a "physician" in this interaction with Hester. Considering

the definition of "leech," what do you suppose is Hawthorne's point in using these two designations?

What is Hester's response to the announcement that the Council had debated allowing her to remove her scarlet letter?

Look again at what you found out about the Anti-Transcendentalists. Why isn't forgiveness an opinion?

How is the doctrine of predestination reflected in this conversation between Hester and Chillingworth?

Why does Chillingworth believe he has a double reason for punishing Dimmesdale?

What does Hester ask of Chillingworth? What is his response?

What pleas of Hester's arouse sympathy and admiration in Chillingworth?

What does Hester ask of Chillingworth? What is his response?

Chapter 15

What is Hester coming to realize is the true sin she has committed? Why would Hawthorne consider this a worse sin than her sin with Dimmsdale?

What does Hester realize about her “repentance”?

Why does Hester hate Chillingworth?

Hester refuses to answer Pearl’s question about the meaning of the “A.” Why does Hester not confide in Pearl?

Why does Hawthorne portray Pearl as such a wild child?

How have Hester’s conversations with Chillingworth and Pearl changed her attitude toward herself and her sin?

Chapter 16

Explain the significance of the sunlight imagery.

When Hester determines to warn Dimmsdale about Chillingworth, why does the meeting take place in the forest?

Explain the probable allusion in the line “the minister and she would need the whole wide world to breathe in.”

What positive significance does the forest begin to take on?

What negative significance does the forest begin to take on?

In what way does Hester acknowledge her sin to Pearl?

Chapter 17

How is Hawthorne advancing his theme of the difference between revealed and secret sin?

Explain the distinction Dimmsdale makes between penance and penitence.

What do we learn is the emotional connection between Hester and Dimmsdale? Why is this significant to the developing theme of the book?

Do you believe Hester is to blame for Dimmsdale’s suffering during the past seven years? Why or why not?

What theme about nature of sin finally begins to emerge in Hester and Dimmsdale’s conversation?

Here is a key question for Hawthorne and the Anti-Transcendentalists: can a “polluted soul” do good for others?

Who are the heartless people with laws of iron to whom Hester refers?

This chapter ends on an optimistic note. What is the source of the optimism?

Chapter 18

What contrast does the narrator point out between Hester and Dimmsdale’s ability to leave town?

Why does Dimmsdale decide to flee with Hester?

What is significant about the title of this chapter?

How does Hawthorne reinforce his idea that nature is sympathetic with the union of Hester and Dimmsdale?

Why would children dislike Dimmsdale?

Chapter 19

Beyond Hester’s explanation, why won’t Pearl come to Hester without the scarlet letter?

What is significant about the fact that Pearl will not bring her the scarlet letter, but makes her pick it up for herself?

Why won’t Pearl show any affection to Dimmsdale? Why does she want him to walk with them hand-in-hand in the marketplace?

This chapter begins on the same optimistic note that ends the previous chapter. On what kind of note does the chapter end? Why?

Chapter 20

What would account for Dimmsdale’s sudden change?

In terms of Hawthorne’s theme contrasting hidden sin versus revealed sin, how can you explain Dimmsdale’s change in this chapter?

Why is the chapter called “The Minister in a Maze”?

Chapter 21

Compare these first-generation New Englanders with their recent English ancestors and with their future New England descendants.

What distressing news does Hester receive from the ship captain?

In addition to providing more information, what other purpose does this chapter serve?

Chapter 22

What is Hawthorne's point about the governors' ability to govern? Does he seem to find fault with them? Why or why not?

What is the source of Dimmsdale's apparent new strength?

What does Pearl want from Dimmsdale?

Explain the remarks, "The sainted minister in the church! The woman of the scarlet letter in the market-place!"

What is Mistress Hibbins saying about the people of Salem Village?

What clues has Hawthorne offered his reader to prepare him or her for the revelation of the scarlet letter on his chest?

Chapter 23

Many critics believe the novel is structured around the three scaffold scenes: the ones in chapters 2 and 12 and this one. Explain how each fits the typical plot scheme of conflict, rising action, climax, falling action, and conclusion.

Why does Dimmsdale stand "on the very proudest eminence of superiority" before the crowd?

What does Chillingworth mean when he says, "There was no one place...where thou couldst have escaped me—save on this very scaffold!"

In what way is Dimmsdale's sin worse than Hester's? Of Hester, Chillingworth, and Dimmsdale, whose sin is the worst? Why?

What accounts for the change in Pearl?

Chapter 24

What theories are given about the scarlet letter imprinted in the minister's flesh?

Why does Hawthorne leave the origin of Dimmsdale's mark ambiguous?

What happens to Chillingworth? What does he give Pearl?

What becomes of Pearl?

Why do you suppose Hester returns to Salem? What might be Hawthorne's point about sin, repentance, and redemption?

Why would Hawthorne allow the story to end with Hester and Dimmesdale being remembered so ignominiously?