*The Scarlet Letter* Reading Guide: Kind Of

**Chapter 1: “The Prison-door”**

1. Where does the story take place?
2. What grows beside the prison door?
3. What do you think this might symbolize?

**Chapter 2: “The Marketplace”**

1. What does the letter A that Hester Prynne is wearing mean?
2. What do you find out about her husband?
3. Describe Hester.

**Chapter 3: “The Recognition”**

1. Who does Hester recognize in the crowd?

2. Where do you find out that the man has been?

3. What does Hester refuse to do as she stands on the scaffold?

**Chapter 8: “The Elf Child and the Minister”**

1. When the Reverend Mr. Wilson tests Pearl’s knowledge of the catechism by asking her who made her, what does she say?
2. What does Dimmesdale say to convince the Governor to let Hester keep the child?
3. As Dimmesdale speaks, he stands with his hand over his heart. Why do you think that is so?
4. What does Mistress Hibbins ask Hester to do as she leaves the Governor’s house? Why does she refuse?

**Chapter 11: “The Interior of a Heart”**

1. What do the people in Dimmesdale’s congregation think of him? Why is this ironic?
2. What is Dimmesdale’s real problem?

**Chapter 16: “A Forest Walk”**

1. What does Hester tell Pearl about the “Black Man?”
2. Who do they meet in the forest?

Chapter 23: “The Revelation of the Scarlet Letter”

1. What does Dimmesdale do as he is walking in the procession?
2. What does Dimmesdale show to the audience to demonstrate his guilt?
3. What does Dimmesdale say when Hester asks if they will be together in eternity?

**Chapter 24: “Conclusion”**

1. What happens to Pearl and Hester?
2. What does Hawthorne say about what was on Dimmesdale’s chest?
3. What is the central moral that is expressed in the conclusion?