

## Scarlet Letter Sample Outline:

- I. Introduction – Hook, connector, thesis statement
- II. Hester's sin exposed
  - A. Her immediate pain
  - B. Her punishment
  - C. Her consequences
  - D. Her emotional state
- III. Dimmesdale's hidden guilt
  - A. Begging Hester to expose him
  - B. The start of his pain and illness
  - C. Others have power over him (Chillingworth)
- IV. Hester coping with the pain
  - A. Sewing
  - B. Dealing with rude remarks and being ostracized
  - C. Finding comfort and pain in Pearl
- V. Dimmesdale's increased guilt
  - A. Physical symptoms
  - B. Irony of his being praised publicly adds to torture
  - C. His need to confess
- VI. Hester's transformation
  - A. Becomes a hero
  - B. Is a saint because she has reminders of her sin
  - C. Desires to leave the Puritan town
- VII. Dimmesdale's doom
  - A. Can never escape his sin
  - B. Finally confesses, but dies
  - C. Pearl is released from sin of her father
- VIII. Conclusion
  - A. Exposed guilt led to strength
  - B. Hidden guilt led to pain and death