

Discussion Questions- *Scarlet Letter*  
Chapters 1-8

I have written six discussion questions as ideas for discussion. Think about these, but then add two questions of your own that you would like discussed in your group.

1. What attitude do you develop toward Puritan society through the reading of this story? To what degree is this fair and to what degree does this apply to people hundreds of years later?
2. What changes have taken place in society since the time period in this book? What has improved? What values should we reconsider?
3. What do you think is the effects of revenge seeking? We can see that Hawthorne is painting a picture that it's the revenge that's taking a toll? Do you agree with Hawthorne's view on revenge? What do you think about Chillingworth as a character?
4. God's attitude in this book towards Hester's "sin" is different that her attitude toward it as well as the attitudes of everyone else. What are these attitudes? What is your attitude toward Hester?
5. What is Hawthorne implying about "sin" in general? What is "sin" as defined by Hawthorne? To what degree do you agree or disagree with him?
6. Being "sinful" gave Hester special insight? Do you think this is a real thing? What is her insight and why does she have it?