

The Scarlet Letter
Vocabulary Quiz #1—Lessons 1-5

1. Governor Bellingham was a good choice for leading the community due to his _____, which was often displayed when he rendered wise decisions.
(A) apparition
(B) efficacy
(C) machination
(D) mountebank
(E) sagacity

2. Rev. Dimmesdale, who appeared to live a most _____ life which was above reproach regarding his holiness, pleaded with Hester to reveal the partner of her sin.
(A) ascetic
(B) congenial
(C) imperious
(D) lurid
(E) ominous

3. Whenever Mrs. Hibbins walked the streets, the townspeople's imaginations would produce _____ thoughts about secret meetings with the Devil, and they knew her presence in town was a(n) _____ sign that suggested evil things to come.
(A) congenial . . inimical
(B) ascetic . . inalienable
(C) lurid . . ominous
(D) inauspicious . . peremptory
(E) sumptuary . . evanescent

4. Being a scholarly man with great learning, Mr. Chillingworth soon became known throughout the region for his _____, to whom many came to seek answers.
(A) apparition
(B) erudition
(C) machination
(D) mountebank
(E) mutability

5. Mr. Chillingworth sought a terrible revenge when he devised his _____ to entrap Rev. Dimmesdale by his displaying a(n) _____ and father-like manner to the young minister.
(A) sagacity . . inauspicious
(B) apparition . . evanescent
(C) mountebank . . imperious
(D) machination . . congenial
(E) efficacy . . ominous

OVER

6. MUTABILITY : FIRMNESS ::

- (A) calculation : addition
- (B) building : parking lot
- (C) feasibility : suitability
- (D) appointment : resignation
- (E) reservation : withholding

7. APPARITION : GHOST ::

- (A) student : book
- (B) duck : pond
- (C) child : mother
- (D) bread : wheat
- (E) storm : tempest

8. MOUNTEBANK : SALESMAN ::

- (A) deserter : soldier
- (B) gold : copper
- (C) paragraph : alphabet
- (D) police : criminal
- (E) forest : lake

9. INALIENABLE : TRANSFERABLE ::

- (A) dispossessed : evicted
- (B) watchful : alert
- (C) spoiled : fresh
- (D) anxious : uneasy
- (E) luxurious : rich

10. INAUSPICIOUS : UNFAVORABLE ::

- (A) reliable : stable
- (B) loathsome : attractive
- (C) acceptable : inappropriate
- (D) wonderful : unworthy
- (E) factual : inaccurate

11. To many of the townspeople, Hester's designing the "A" in an elaborate way seemed only to palliate her sin, instead of suffering fully for it.

The word "palliate" means

- (A) mock.
- (B) mitigate.
- (C) increase.
- (D) ignore.
- (E) acknowledge.

12. The wearing of the "A" did not have the efficacy desired by the magistrates, since Hester was not completely shunned by the community, but rather became a vital part of it.

The word "efficacy" means most nearly in this sentence

- (A) punishment.
- (B) politeness.
- (C) beauty.
- (D) scorn.
- (E) effectiveness.

13. Hester was not of the nature that was evanescent and fragile, as if she would disappear into the air like fog overtaken by the morning sun, but she had fortitude and dignity.

The word "evanescent" means to

- (A) hard.
- (B) reckless.
- (C) abandoned.
- (D) vanishing.
- (E) thoughtless.

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Vocabulary Quiz #2—Lessons 5–10

1. Rev. Dimmesdale preached to his congregation with a majestic and eloquent air, but many could note a bit of _____, a sorrow that was not too evident.
 - (A) caprice
 - (B) jocularity
 - (C) plaintiveness
 - (D) precocity
 - (E) propinquity

2. Pearl would amaze her mother everyday with new revelations of the child's _____, which made the child appear to be very advanced for her age and for her experience in life.
 - (A) caprice
 - (B) duplicity
 - (C) jocularity
 - (D) precocity
 - (E) propinquity

3. Hester worked continuously as if she were _____, making a comfortable home for her child even though the cottage was plain and secluded, reflecting her self-imposed _____.
 - (A) decorous . . caprice
 - (B) scurrilous . . duplicity
 - (C) languid . . expiation
 - (D) trammled . . misanthropy
 - (E) indefatigable . . austerity

4. The mood of the _____ who inhabited the town was one of soberness and graveness, because all amusements and _____ were suppressed by the strict laws of conduct.
 - (A) austerity . . propinquity
 - (B) denizens . . jocularity
 - (C) expiation . . plaintiveness
 - (D) caprice . . contiguity
 - (E) precocity . . duplicity

5. Chillingworth could not be appeased at all, desiring even the forces of nature to be turned into a power that was _____ and evil, wanting Rev. Dimmesdale to pay a full _____ with his total ruin.
 - (A) deleterious . . expiation
 - (B) languid . . propinquity
 - (C) nugatory . . precocity
 - (D) decorous . . jocularity
 - (E) scurrilous . . duplicity

OVER

6. MISANTHROPY : MANKIND ::

- (A) misbehavior : students
- (B) mistake : errors
- (C) misogyny : women
- (D) misinformation : government
- (E) disorientation : pilots

7. SCINTILLATE : FLASH ::

- (A) excel : fail
- (B) cultivate : uproot
- (C) question : inform
- (D) extinguish : quench
- (E) return : possess

8. DUPLICITY : FAITHFULNESS ::

- (A) forgiveness : honesty
- (B) burden : relief
- (C) admonishment : warning
- (D) labor : work
- (E) refusal : rejection

9. LANGUID : LIVELY ::

- (A) true : correct
- (B) purchase : buy
- (C) brave : bold
- (D) confident : pessimistic
- (E) retain : possess

10. CAPRICE : WHIM ::

- (A) blessing : curse
- (B) piety : irreligious
- (C) soberness : seriousness
- (D) matron : debutante
- (E) democracy : anarchy

11. As Rev. Dimmesdale entered the church to deliver his election sermon, he observed the many noble and decorous personages who occupied the pews.

The word “decorous” means

- (A) ill-mannered.
- (B) plain.
- (C) capricious.
- (D) proper.
- (E) vulgar.

12. The contiguity of the Puritan government with the Puritan religion led to abuses and intolerance, which were alleviated later with the growing recognition of freedom of thought.

The word “contiguity” means in this sentence

- (A) connection.
- (B) treaty.
- (C) vice.
- (D) separation.
- (E) hatred.

13. The only explanation provided by the townspeople for Rev. Dimmesdale’s dying in the arms of Hester was the minister’s desire to give an object lesson for the truth that man’s righteousness is nugatory in this world.

The word “nugatory” means

- (A) supreme.
- (B) evil.
- (C) unworthy.
- (D) unimportant.
- (E) pressing.