Analysis:

7. Governor Bellingham and Mr. Wilson are considering placing Pearl in someone else's care. Hester wants to keep her child. Which side's argument considers the best interests of Pearl? Considering Pearl's behavior so far, which side do you think is most correct?

8. What does the scene with Mistress Hibbins at the end of Chapter 8 reveal to us about Hester?
9. How do people view Roger Chillingworth at the start of Chapter 9? How do many people view him at the end of the chapter?

10. Chapters 9–11 chronicle a change in Chillingworth’s relationship with Dimmesdale. What was Chillingworth’s original purpose in examining and developing a relationship with Dimmesdale? What changed?

11. *Personification* is the technique of giving human attributes to material things. Chillingworth does the very opposite to Dimmesdale, totally stripping Dimmesdale of his human qualities. List some phrases Hawthorne uses to demonstrate this.

12. What hangs on the walls of Dimmesdale’s library? What is its significance?
Dig Deeper:

13. Hawthorne sets up various contrasting situations or descriptions of Dimmesdale and Chillingworth, characterizing Dimmesdale as a man of light (godly) and Chillingworth as a man of darkness (demonic). List three of these situations or descriptions.

14. At the beginning of Chapter 10, Hawthorne says Chillingworth “had begun an investigation, as he imagined, with the severe and equal integrity of a judge, desirous only of the truth.” Read Proverbs 14:12, 1 Corinthians 10:12, and Galatians 6:1. How do these verses apply to Chillingworth’s investigation? How do they apply to us?

15. Near the middle of Chapter 10, Chillingworth and Dimmesdale get into a discussion of the worth of confession of sins, possibly public confession. Describe in a few sentences the argument of each, specifically in paragraphs beginning: “True; there are such men,” and “These men deceive themselves.” Read James 5:16. Which character do you most closely agree with and why? Is this verse discussing public or private confession, and how does it apply to the argument?

16. Read Hebrews 2:18; 4:15, 16. What character from The Scarlet Letter is similar to the attributes described in these verses? Quote a passage demonstrating this similarity and explain the similarity. In what very important way are the two people described in the book and in these verses opposite?