

# The Scarlet Letter

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Vocabulary Worksheet 3

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**A.** Read each sentence then choose the best definition for the highlighted word. The sentences are usually taken from The Scarlet Letter. A word may have more than one meaning; choose the meaning best illustrated by the sentence. You may use a dictionary, if necessary.

- There were scholars who had spent more years in acquiring **abstruse** lore connected with the divine profession than Mr. Dimmesdale had lived.  
A. ancient  
B. triangular  
C. unwritten  
D. profound
- There were men, too, of a sturdier texture of mind than his, constituting a highly respectable, **efficacious** variety of the clerical species.  
A. effortless  
B. ineffective  
C. efficient  
D. unproductive
- There were true saintly fathers, patient in thought and **etherealized**, moreover, by spiritual communications with the better world.  
A. made blind  
B. made celestial  
C. made untalkative  
D. made prophetic
- It is inconceivable, the agony with which this public **veneration** tortured him! He felt he was utterly a pollution and a lie.  
A. adoration  
B. complication  
C. exposition  
D. opinion
- To the untrue man, the whole universe is false; it is **impalpable**; it shrinks to nothing within his grasp.  
A. unspeakable  
B. invisible  
C. involuntary  
D. invalid
- Mr. Dimmesdale walked in the shadow of a dream, as it were, under the influence of **somnambulism**.  
A. a nightmare  
B. a daydream  
C. sleepwalking  
D. drugs
- While standing on the scaffold, in this vain show of **expiation**, Mr. Dimmesdale was overcome with a great horror of mind.  
A. enthusiasm  
B. exaggeration  
C. bravado  
D. atonement



8. It was in a tongue unknown to the *erudite* clergyman, and did but increase the bewilderment of his mind.
- A. studious  
C. impolite
- B. ill  
D. hard of hearing
9. Satan dropped it there, intending a *scurrilous* jest against your reverence.
- A. untimely  
C. humorous
- B. vulgar  
D. shocking
10. She had been born amiss, the *effluence* of her mother's lawless passion.
- A. result  
C. outflow
- B. promise  
D. living picture
11. A secret enemy had been continually by his side, under the *semblance* of a friend and helper.
- A. sincere form  
C. outward appearance
- B. guidance  
D. leadership
12. He fancied himself given over to a fiend, but it was the constant shadow of my presence, the closest *propinquity* of the man whom he had wronged!
- A. relative  
C. nearness
- B. example of sin  
D. neighbor
13. She gazed into her eyes with an earnestness that was seldom seen in her wild and *capricious* character.
- A. sympathetic  
C. predictable
- B. whimsical  
D. constant
14. Her affection was like a wayward April breeze, which has gusts of passion, and is *petulant* in its best of moods and chills oftener than caresses you.
- A. irritable  
C. playful
- B. welcome  
D. annoying
15. He looked doubtfully at the deformed figure of the old physician; the very fashion of his garments was *odious* in the clergyman's sight.
- A. smelly  
C. impressive
- B. dull and dismal  
D. hateful



**B. Matching.** Write each word in front of its definition.

**abstruse**

**capricious**

**efficacious**

**effluence**

**erudite**

\_\_\_\_\_ *adj.* learned, knowing, studious, scholarly, partial to reading, bookish, well-read

\_\_\_\_\_ *adj.* ambiguous, hard to understand, elusive, profound, deep, over one's head

\_\_\_\_\_ *n.* outflow, effusion, emanation, emergence, escape

\_\_\_\_\_ *adj.* effective, efficient, successful, operative, productive

\_\_\_\_\_ *adj.* impulsive, unpredictable, arbitrary, whimsical, inconsistent, purposeless, motiveless

**etherealize**

**expiation**

**impalpable**

**odious**

**petulant**

\_\_\_\_\_ *adj.* hateful, unlovable, repulsive, loathsome

\_\_\_\_\_ *adj.* peevish, irritable, contemptuous, querulous

\_\_\_\_\_ *v.* to make or become light, fragile, ghostly, insubstantial, unearthly, or shadowy

\_\_\_\_\_ *adj.* intangible, imperceptible, difficult to perceive or grasp by the mind

\_\_\_\_\_ *n.* atonement, propitiation, satisfaction, pacification, reconciliation

**propinquity**

**scurrilous**

**semblance**

**somnambulism**

**reverence**

\_\_\_\_\_ *n.* appearance, form, likeness, seeming, an outward or taken appearance, a copy, the barest trace

\_\_\_\_\_ *n.* profound respect or reverence, adoration, worship

\_\_\_\_\_ *n.* nearness, proximity, closeness, forefront, kinship, similarity in nature

\_\_\_\_\_ *adj.* profane, vulgar, foul-mouthed, ribald

\_\_\_\_\_ *n.* sleepwalking, trance, insensibility



**C. Glossary.** Write the *definition* or a *synonym* and *usual part of speech* for each word in this lesson in your Glossary or on your spelling flash cards. Check here when finished.

**D. Use the Words.** Compose a sentence or phrase illustrating proper usage of each vocabulary word and enter it into the Glossary. Check here when finished.

**E. Synonyms.** Substitute the best vocabulary word for each highlighted synonym.

abstruse	contumacious	impalpable	mountebank	propinquity
adduced	efficacious	inauspicious	odious	rotundity
ascetic	eldritch	indubitable	palliate	scurrilous
capricious	emolument	inimical	petulant	somniferous
commiseration	exigency	inviolable	preternatural	vereneration

1. Imitate these **successful** methods to increase efficiency.
2. An **intangible** sense told him to flee quickly.
3. Many would not survive this **austere** lifestyle.
4. The supplies were stored for use during a **crisis**.
5. That advice is **harmful** to your well-being.
6. God is worthy of **profound respect**, not man.
7. My sin is **repulsive** even in my own sight.
8. It is not wrong to expect **payment** for the work I have done.
9. An inquisitive crowd listened skeptically to the **charlatan**.
10. I felt his **nearness** before I saw or heard him.
11. Can anyone **assuage** the disgruntled workers?
12. The stuffy room, warm milk and soft music had a **soporific** effect.
13. Control your **cantankerous** behavior or go take a nap.
14. Many have tried to understand these **profound** ideas; few have succeeded.
15. He **cited** his case well; his arguments had merit.
16. She felt no **pity**, no sense of sorrow for the loss.
17. Can you tame your **unpredictable** impulses?
18. An **eerie** scream pierced the night air.
19. She had built an **invincible** wall around her emotions.
20. Dieting did nothing to decrease her **plumpness**; exercise was in order.
21. **Vulgar** speech is not allowed in our home.
22. The child appears to be completely void of a **rebellious** nature.
23. The guest was greeted with **unfavorable** stares.
24. The **unquestionable** evidence convinced the jury.
25. Possessing **supernatural** strength, Samson defeated the Philistines.

