Hester and Dimmesdale in Scarlet Letter

Name

School

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Hester and Dimmesdale are characters represented in the Scarlett Letter. They have performed an evil act of adultery and now they both are suffering from its guilt. They have altered ways of receiving punishment to their acts.

The community loathed the act at that time. These two characters can be contrasted as to how they handled their guilt. Both these characters have to wear a scarlet letter but they handle it in a distinct manner.

For Hester, a piece of clothing shows the scarlet letter which is put on the top part of her body. The letter for Dimmesdale is carved in his chest. This fact is revealed when he was giving his revelation and he tore his ministerial band away. There were contrasting reactions of public towards both these people regarding their letters. The lady with visible letter is talked about by people in public and the man is not. Hester comes out as a stronger character after the issue because she had to live a hard life.

Dimmesdale was a public figure and he chose to live cowardly thereafter. He had a constant fear that his sin may be exposed to public and his soul will not bear the weight of such an act because he was seen as an important moral figure in the society. Punishment for both these characters were very lenient as compared to punishments in practice. Dimmesdale punishes himself by becoming weaker and weaker with the passage of time. They have not shown any courage after their sin and are afraid of the public and how will they think of them. Hester does not let anyone know about her real husband who is Chillngworth and is still alive. Both Hester and Dimmesdale also try to escape away from Boston and flee to Europe.