

Rebekah Oliver

Mrs. Wright's class

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American Lit.

Team Hester or Team Dimmesdale?

If a person was living in shame, what would they be compelled to do? Hester chose to be outward about her sin, while Dimmesdale silently hid his. Hester did the right thing in confessing her wrongdoing. Not only were they sinning against man, but they were sinning against God. Hester was punished, but God protected her and she learned to embrace her sin instead of living in guilt for her misconduct. Dimmesdale was silent. Though he did not get publicly shamed, he dealt with his shame by torturing himself. Dimmesdale often committed self-harm by wounding himself. He would starve himself, cut himself, and deprive himself of sleep. Hester was living a decent life with Pearl, and Dimmesdale was punishing himself and had to deal with his guilt alone. Hester was shamed by the public, while Dimmesdale, who was hiding his sin, was commended for being "holy." Who had the better life overall? When all circumstances are taken into account about their lifestyles, Hester did, because she was not physically dying. She was thriving living on her own as a single mother. She had her own business in embroidery and was well known for her pleasing handiwork, as well as her own cottage on the outskirts of town. Dimmesdale lived with Chillingsworth, who was his physician, and was not in good health. Overall, Hester made the right decision and trusted in God, and He provided for her and Pearl.