

Pearl: Where is She Now?

The end of *The Scarlet Letter* gives us very little information about Pearl and her future. All we know is that she was left a sizeable inheritance from Chillingworth, and then she basically disappeared. So, where is she now?

In this project, you will provide a detailed explanation using hints or details from the novel and any other appropriate knowledge you consider helpful in making your prediction. Use textual evidence!!! You will also be required to provide an explanation for why you think Hawthorne would leave the question of Pearl and her future unanswered. Why didn't Hawthorne tell us explicitly what has become of Pearl?

In groups of 2-3, you will present your answer to the question: "Where is Pearl now?"

You can present your answer in a plethora of formats: an interview, an obituary, a newspaper article, a biography, etc. Be creative!

Here is a list of questions to guide your thinking (these are merely suggestions, not requirements):

- What do we learn about Pearl from the way she talks and the way she acts?
- What do we learn about Pearl from what other people (including the author) say or suggest about her?
- Under what conditions might Pearl marry or have a child?
- How likely is it that Pearl might take out her anger on people in her new community? What antisocial actions might she take?
- How might Pearl's childhood experiences affect her emotions and her life choices once she leaves New England?
- What basic life skills will Pearl have to learn as a young woman?
- If Pearl survives, what communication if any do you think she will have with her mother back in New England?
- What role could Pearl play in a new community—witch? Religious leader who dispenses mercy and punishment? Recluse? Mystery woman?
- What does the open-ended conclusion given about Pearl tell the audience? How does it affect the rest of the story? Is it a satisfying ending?