

The Minister's Black Veil: Guided Reading

Answer the questions as thoroughly as possible.

What effect did the veil have when the congregation first saw it? Take note how this reaction changes over the course of the story.

What is the significance of the topic of the sermon that Mr. Hooper delivers?

What were some of the various explanations by members of the congregation for this strange object? Which of the explanations is the most generally accepted?

What effect was the veil and Hooper said to have had on the corpse at the funeral?

What effect did the veil have on the wedding?

When Mr. Hooper saw himself in the mirror, how did the veil affect him?

What's Elizabeth's relationship to Hooper? What eventually happens to her? What does she become?

What did Hooper see when he looked into the burial ground?

Eventually, when Hooper got older, the community began to call him . . . ?

On his deathbed, what did Hooper cite as the reason for wearing his veil?

Harder Questions

What does the veil symbolize within the story?

What "twist" do you think this has that relates to dark romanticism?

What is Hawthorne trying to reveal about humanity that connects to dark romanticism?

When will "our" veils be taken away?