

I. THE PRISON DOOR



Words to know:

If you read a word in the chapter you do not know, then link to this website: <http://dictionary.reverso.net/english-cobuild/congenial>

edifice - An edifice is a large and impressive building.



Utopia - an imaginary situation as a utopia, is one in which society is perfect and everyone is happy, but which you feel is not possible.



sepulchers - A sepulchre is a building or room in which a dead person is buried.



1. Look for words from chapter 1.

2. Write in correct column on graphic organizer.

compound words	-ly (state of being)	in- (in, not)	con- (with, together)

A throng (*group*) of bearded **men**, in sad-colored garments and grey steeple-crowned hats, **inter-mixed with women**, some wearing hoods, and others bareheaded, **was assembled** (*gathered*) **in front of a wooden edifice** (*large & impressive building*), the door of which was heavily timbered with oak, and studded with iron spikes.

Notes:

Draw a picture of what you visualized in the above paragraph:



Notes:

The founders of a new colony, whatever **Utopia** (*perfect society*) of human virtue and happiness they might **originally project**, have invariably recognized it among their **earliest** practical **necessities** to allot a portion of the virgin soil as **a cemetery**, and another portion as the site of **a prison**.

What were the two practical necessities new colonies built?

1.

2.

In accordance with this rule it may safely be assumed that the forefathers of Boston had built the first prison-house somewhere in the Vicinity of Cornhill, almost as seasonably as they marked out the first burial-ground, on Isaac Johnson's lot, and round about his grave, which subsequently became the nucleus of all the congregated *sepulchers* (*building where dead people are buried*) in the old churchyard of King's Chapel.

Notes:

Certain it is that, some fifteen or twenty years after the settlement of the town, the wooden jail was already marked with weather-stains and other indications of age, which gave a yet darker aspect to its beetle-browed and gloomy front. The rust on the ponderous (*slow or clumsy movement*) iron-work of its oaken door looked more antique than anything else in the New World. Like all that pertains to crime, it seemed never to have known a youthful era.

Notes:

Before this ugly edifice (*building*), and between it and the wheel-track of the street, was a grass-plot, much overgrown with burdock, pig-weed, apple-pern, and such unsightly vegetation, which evidently found something congenial (*pleasant*) in the soil that had so early borne *the black flower of civilized society, a prison*.

Notes:

Explain “the black flower of civilized society, a prison.”

But on one side of the portal, and rooted almost at the threshold, was a wild rose-bush, covered, in this month of June, with its delicate gems, which might be imagined to offer their fragrance and fragile beauty to the prisoner as he went in, and to the condemned criminal as he came forth to

Notes:

his doom, in token that the deep heart of Nature could pity and be kind to him.

This rose-bush, by a strange chance, has been kept alive in history; but whether it had merely survived out of the stern old wilderness, so long after the fall of the gigantic pines and oaks that originally overshadowed it, or whether, as there is fair authority for believing, it had sprung up under the footsteps of the sainted Ann Hutchinson as she entered the prison-door, we shall not take upon us to determine. Finding it so directly on the threshold of our narrative, which is now about to issue from that inauspicious portal (*doorway at a building entrance*), we could hardly do otherwise than pluck one of its flowers, and present it to the reader. It may serve, let us hope, to symbolize some sweet moral blossom that may be found along the track, or relieve the darkening close of a tale of human frailty and sorrow.

Notes:

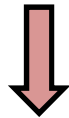
Explain “darkening close of a tale of human frailty and sorrow” means.



Explain/interpret the quote:

The scarlet letter was her passport into regions where other women dared not to tread. Shame, Despair, Solitude! These had been her teachers—stern and wild ones—and they had made her strong, but taught her much amiss.

by Nathaniel Thorne



Another version/summary of Chapter 1

<http://www.sparknotes.com/nofear/lit/the-scarlet-letter/chapter-1/>

The founders of a new colony, regardless of the utopia they may hope for, always build two things first: a cemetery and a prison. So it is safe to assume that the founders of Boston built their first prison somewhere in the vicinity of *Cornhill* just as they marked the first burial ground on Isaac Johnson's land.

Notes:

It took only fifteen or twenty years for the wooden jail to take on water stains and other signs of age, which darkened its already gloomy appearance. The rust on the door's iron spikes looked older than anything else in the New World. Like all things touched by crime, it seemed that the prison had never been young or new. In front of the prison there was a grassy area overgrown with weeds, which must have found something welcoming in the soil that had supported the black flowers of society.

Notes:

But on one side of the ugly prison door there was a wild rose bush, which was covered with delicate buds on this June day. It was as if Nature had taken pity and offered some beauty to the criminals walking in to serve their terms or heading out to face their executions

Notes:

Summarize key points of Chapter 1:

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Describe the prison:

Below, you will see words listed from chapter one's text listed in the chart. Select words from each column and write in complete sentences. Be sure it is written so a "reader" can visualize and clearly understand

compound words	-ly (state of being)	in- (in, not)	con- (with, together)
bareheaded	subsequently	indications	congregation
forefathers	originally	inauspicious	condemned
churchyard	invariably		congenial
overshadowed	seasonably		congregated
otherwise	unsightly		

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____