

Unit 2: Collection 5  
**Selection Test**

## READING AND LITERATURE

**The Minister's Black Veil** Nathaniel Hawthorne

**COMPREHENSION** Circle the letter of the best answer to each of the following items. (30 points; 5 points each)

1. The veil changes Mr. Hooper's personality in that it makes him—
  - A) seem kinder and more gentle
  - B) feel cruel and heartless
  - C) seem ghostlike from head to foot
  - D) become more patient with small children
2. No one will ask Mr. Hooper why he is wearing the veil because—
  - A) no one cares why he is wearing the veil
  - B) everyone already knows the reason
  - C) they are afraid that if they ask, he will make them wear veils, too
  - D) they are afraid of what his answer might be
3. Wearing the veil changes Mr. Hooper's sermon in that it makes the sermon—
  - A) more difficult to understand
  - B) less frightening
  - C) more interesting
  - D) more powerful
4. Mr. Hooper tells his fiancée, Elizabeth, "There is an hour to come . . . when all of us shall cast aside our veils." He means that—
  - A) everyone's soul will be revealed on Judgment Day
  - B) everyone will soon be wearing veils, but only for a short time
  - C) everyone is already wearing a veil in the privacy of the home
  - D) everyone should be wearing a veil to hide his or her shame
5. Why does Mr. Hooper refuse to allow Mr. Clark to remove the black veil?
  - A) He wants God to remove the veil on Judgment Day.
  - B) His face is disfigured and he does not want anyone to see it.
  - C) He wants to hide his face because he committed a horrible crime.
  - D) He wants to die with the symbol with which he lived most of his life.

**Unit 2: Collection 5, Selection Test** *continued*

6. Why did Hawthorne call "The Minister's Black Veil" a **parable**?
- A) The characters and setting are imaginary.
  - B) Moral themes form the center of the story.
  - C) The story is sad and depressing.
  - D) The story is based on a true event.

**VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT** Match the definition on the right with the vocabulary word on the left. On the line provided, write the letter of the word or phrase that best defines each vocabulary word. (10 points; 2 points each)

- |                        |                                   |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| _____ 7. antipathy     | A) deliberately attracting notice |
| _____ 8. inanimate     | B) thoughtfully or seriously      |
| _____ 9. plausibility  | C) lifeless                       |
| _____ 10. pensively    | D) strong dislike                 |
| _____ 11. ostentatious | E) believability                  |

**VOCABULARY SKILL** In each of the following word pairs the first word has an archaic, or old-fashioned, meaning as it is used in the selection. On the line provided, write *S* if the second word is a synonym or *A* if it is an antonym. (10 points; 2 points each)

- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. awe : dread
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. unappalled : weakened
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. insensibly : numbly
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. suffer : forbid
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. divine : clergyman

**LITERARY FOCUS** Circle the letter of the best answer to each of the following items. (15 points; 5 points each)

17. One of the reasons the black veil has such a powerful effect on people is because—
- A) Mr. Hooper's personality and behavior changed once he started wearing it
  - B) they fear Mr. Hooper will make them cover their faces with veils
  - C) it makes them think Mr. Hooper is hiding something awful
  - D) only women wore veils in Colonial America

**Unit 2: Collection 5, Selection Test** *continued*

18. The black veil is most likely a **symbol** of—
- A) sin and guilt
  - B) a facial deformity
  - C) death and destruction
  - D) misfortune and sorrow
19. Mr. Hooper chooses to look physically different from other people. This symbolic act is meant to—
- A) show that he is more sinful than other people
  - B) display that he suffers a condition shared by all people
  - C) protect him from other people's sins
  - D) highlight his role as an agent of holiness in a world of sin

**READING FOCUS** Circle the letter of the best answer to each of the following items. (15 points; 5 points each)

20. From Elizabeth's talk with Mr. Hooper, you can infer that—
- A) Mr. Hooper is doomed to be lonely
  - B) Mr. Hooper wants to end the relationship
  - C) Elizabeth understands why Mr. Hooper wears the veil
  - D) Elizabeth rejects Mr. Hooper only because she worries about a scandal
21. When Mr. Hooper says that he sees a black veil on everyone around him, he means that—
- A) everyone is concealing himself from others
  - B) others are wearing veils in his honor
  - C) he is afraid to look at others
  - D) his veil has no purpose
22. Why do you think no one walked alongside Mr. Hooper after church services on the first Sunday that he wore the black veil?
- A) The parishioners did not recognize Mr. Hooper.
  - B) Mr. Hooper wanted to avoid the parishioners.
  - C) The parishioners felt ill at ease.
  - D) Mr. Hooper wanted to go directly home.

**FIFTEEN MINUTE TIMED WRITING** (20 points)

23. Hawthorne could have made the main character of this story a banker, a teacher, a shopkeeper, or a person with any other job. On a separate sheet of paper, write a paragraph discussing how the parable is affected by Hawthorne's decision to make the main character a minister. Support your ideas with details from the selection.