

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

The Minister's Black Veil by Nathaniel Hawthorne

Study Questions

Directions: Answer the following questions in the space provided.

1. As the story begins, what weekly event is about to take place?

2. Describe the veil and how it is placed on Mr. Hooper's face.

3. When Mr. Hooper gave out the psalm with the veil in tact, this is the first suggestion that the veil is a symbol. What might the veil symbolize?

4. What was the subject of Mr. Hooper's sermon on the day he first wears the veil?

5. *"How strange... that a simple black veil, such as any woman might wear on her bonnet, should become such a terrible thing on Mr. Hooper's face!"*

Why do you think the veil on Mr. Hooper's face would be worse than on a woman's bonnet?

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6. How does Mr. Hooper's veil affect the wedding party?

7. Why do you think the villagers never confronted Mr. Hooper about the veil?

8. *"If I hide my face for sorrow, there is cause enough... and if I cover it for secret sin, what mortal might not do the same?"*

What does Mr. Hooper mean when he says this to Elizabeth?

9. What one desirable effect does the veil have?

10. At the end of the story, why does Father Hooper look around at the spectators on his death bed and cry, *"lo! on every visage a Black Veil!"*?

