

Part 2 “The Minister’s Black Veil” Reading Guide

I. **Context Clues:** As you find the word, define it using context clues.

Page	Page	Page	Page
Scrupled:	Placid:	Abashed:	Intimated:
Countenance:	Melancholy:	Remonstrated:	Obscurity:
Prodigy:	Knoll:	Amiable:	Obstinacy:
Imbued:	Affrighting:	*Ambiguity:	Entreaties

II. **Symbols:** What do these stand for? Bell: _____

Staircase: Up vs Down: _____

III. **Veil Symbolism:** Provide textual support for the possible meanings of the veil.

Gloom:
Life/Death:
Secrets:
Separation/Isolation:
Shame:
Affliction:
Scandal:
Sorrow:
Secret Sin:
Mental Illness:
Lies we tell ourselves:

IV. Reactions to Veil

Funeral Guests	Wedding Party	Elizabeth	Clergymen

V. Comprehension Questions:

Why did the superstitious old woman think the corpse moved?
Why did one of the procession goers look back?
How did people view the bride at her wedding?
What happened to the minister at the end of the wedding?
What effect does the assonance in the following line have on the passage: “One I mitative l ittle I mp covered his face...”?
What happened when they sent “a deputation of the church...to deal with the mystery?”
What impact does the minister’s smile have on this page?

VI. Symbols/Allegory

An allegory is a literary work in which characters, events, settings, and other story elements are symbolic to something else. Authors write allegories to teach morals or lessons or to explain things. In the chart below, briefly explain the possible symbolic meaning of each story element listed.

Story element	Symbolism it represents
Black veil	Secret sins of all humans
Pale-faced congregation	
The village physician	
Elizabeth	
The wedding of the town's most handsomest couple	
Mirrors	

Other symbol examples?