

“THE MINISTER’S BLACK VEIL”

- **Setting** = Puritan New England (Strict – religious – innate depravity – few can be saved)
 - **Point of View** = 3rd person / detached (observer adds mystery to Hooper’s actions)
 - **Conflict** = immediate tension with the congregation (veil creates fear and
 - confusion)
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BLACK VEIL

- **Climax** = Elizabeth's departure (even love cannot lift some veils)
- **Theme** = different people have different veils; veils keep people from truly knowing each other.
- **Irony** = outwardly Hooper lived a morally clean life; yet, the veil brought suspicions and
- fear.

AMBIGUITY

- Expressing so that meaning is *uncertain* or can be understood in two or more ways.
 - **Examples in the story:**
 - What is it that people hide?
 - Sorrow
 - Sin
 - Shame (guilt)
 - What does the sad smile mean?
 - **Paradox** – how can one be sad and smile?
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MORE KEY IDEAS – MINISTER’S VEIL

- When he first wears the veil, the sermon is on **secret sin**
 - He calls the veil, “. . .a type and a symbol”
 - Mourning
 - Secret sin
 - Shame (guilt)
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VEIL KEY IDEAS

- He and Elizabeth can be together in heaven w/out veil
 - One desirable effect = effective clergyman
 - On his death bed – points out that people showed him no pity / fled
 - Black veil on every face (all have secret sins / guilt)
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VEIL IDEAS

- Primarily, the veil made him an outcast:
 - congregation
 - Elizabeth
 - Behavior at death
- He may wear the veil in order to teach a lesson (**parable**)
- **Allusion to Matthew 25:31-46** “. . . For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

CHARACTER MAP

- Character's name goes in the middle
- Opinions and branches with pictures extend off of the name (**at least five**)
- These pictures / phrases should illustrate the character (Hooper, Elizabeth, Congregation)



• Hooper - -

