

Questions and Answers - The birthmark – Set 1

1. Who are the main characters in The birthmark?
 1. The main characters in the story are a brilliant scientist Aylmer and his wife Georgina.
2. In the story, the Birthmark, what perceived deformity did the scientist think that his wife had?
 1. In the centre of Georgiana's left cheek there was a mark, deep in her skin. The mark was usually a deep red colour. When Georgiana blushed, the mark became less visible. But when she turned pale, there was the mark, like a red stain upon snow. The birthmark would come and go with the emotions in her heart.
3. Who is the author of the story the birthmark?
 1. [Nathaniel Hawthorne](#) was a famous and well known American author of short stories. The birthmark is one of his most famous stories.
4. Who is the protagonist and antagonist in The birthmark?
 1. There is no true protagonist or antagonist in the story. The scientist can be considered as the anti hero of the story as his obsession ends the life of his wife.
5. What type of story is the birthmark?
 1. The story can be described as a mix between dark romance and Gothic fiction. It is of the romantic genre as the scientist does everything to make his wife the perfect embodiment of beauty. The story is dark as he takes it too far.

Questions and Answers - The birthmark – Set 2

6. What is the irony in the birthmark?
 1. The irony in the birthmark is that the scientist strives to remove his wife's birthmark and when he succeeds in removing it, his wife dies.
7. What is the story the birthmark about?
 1. The story the birthmark is about the darkness of a man's obsession in trying to achieve perfection no matter the price. The obsession results in his wife's death
8. What does the birthmark symbolize to Aylmer?
 1. To Aylmer, the birthmark signifies imperfection which he could never accept. The birthmark stands for imperfection in an otherwise perfect person. Aylmer is obsessed with the birthmark since he is afraid of imperfection since he considers himself a true lover of man of science.

9. What is Aylmer's true motive for removing the birthmark?
1. Aylmer is obsessed with the removal of the birthmark because he considers it would be his greatest scientific achievement. He considers himself a failure as a scientist and that this would rescue his career.
10. How does Aylmer feel when Georgiana asks him to remove her birthmark?
1. Aylmer is very happy as he believes it would be the greatest of achievements to correct Nature's flaw.

Questions and Answers - The birthmark – Set 3

11. What does the plant symbolize in the birthmark?
1. The plant symbolizes death when perfection is attained without regard of the price.
12. Did Aylmer truly love Georgiana?
1. Aylmer did truly love Georgiana but his madness resulted in the path he took which killed her.
13. Why did Georgiana drink the potion?
1. She is fed up with the madness of her husband and wants to be loved again. So she says she is ready to drink even poison to remove the birthmark. Ironically that is what she drinks in the end.
14. Why does Georgiana love Aylmer?
1. Georgiana loves Aylmer as it is her duty as a wife. She hates that her imperfection is the reason for husbands' misery.
15. What happens to Georgiana's birthmark?
1. Georgiana drinks the elixir and falls asleep and the birthmark starts to fade away. However as it fades away in the end, she dies with it.

Questions and Answers - The birthmark – Set 4

16. What foreshadows Georgiana's death in the birthmark?
1. In his dream, Aylmer comes to fully understand the birthmark and its connection to Georgiana's mortality. However he is still willing to remove it forcibly as he desires perfection in everything. The dream foreshadows Georgiana's death.
17. Which action did Aylmer perform while Georgiana slept?

1. He kisses her birthmark as if he were saying goodbye to it. Ironically, he was saying goodbye to his wife for she was about to die.

18. What is Aylmer most afraid of?

1. Aylmer is most afraid of becoming a failed scientist and becoming irrelevant in the world of science. The birthmark stands for imperfection. Aylmer is obsessed with the birthmark since he is afraid of imperfection as he considers himself a true lover of man of science.

19. What is the conclusion of the birthmark?

1. One should not strive to cure all bodily imperfections as the human body although created in god's image is flawed for in its flaws is its beauty.

20. What happens at the end of the birthmark?

1. His wife Georgiana died because of the chemicals that removed her mole. The mole had been an indicator of her health and his chemical was harsh enough to remove it thus killing her.

21. What is the moral of the story the birthmark?

1. The moral of the short story, the birthmark is that it is human to be flawed. One can never be perfect and imperfections do exist. One must not strive for bodily perfection as it begins is to deny one's own mortality. Also it teaches us the peril of trying to achieve perfection of one's body with chemicals.

22. What does the birthmark symbolize?

1. The birthmark symbolizes the existence of imperfection in everything. It is told throughout the story that his wife is perfect aside from the birthmark which infuriates and depresses the scientist.