“The Birthmark” by Nathaniel Hawthorne **Reading Comprehension Quiz**

**Multiple Choice.** Choose the *best* answer choice for questions 1-6 below.

1. When does Georgiana’s birthmark show up most strongly?
   1. When she is asleep
   2. When she is pale
   3. When she laughs
   4. When she blushes
2. How does Aylmer balance his love of science with his love for his wife?
   1. He spends most of his time with his assistant.
   2. He thinks of a way to connect his love for her and science.
   3. He spends most of his time with her.
   4. He plans to leave his lab to honeymoon.
3. Hawthorne’s story can be considered ironic because
   1. Georgiana never really loved Aylmer
   2. Aylmer loves science more than he loves Georgiana
   3. Aylmer sets out to make Georgiana perfect and ends up destroying her
   4. Georgiana has always begged her parents to remove the birthmark
4. The turning point of the story occurs when
   1. Georgiana drinks from the goblet given to her by Aylmer
   2. Georgiana looks into the mirror and gives a long smile
   3. Georgiana whispers, “I’m dying” to Aylmer and takes her last breath
   4. Aylmer suggests to Georgiana that she would be more lovely without the mark
5. The birthmark of Georgiana’s face
   1. Is only noticeable when she blushes
   2. Can only be seen by her husband
   3. Is in the shape of a tiny foot
   4. Is a crimson color when her face is pale
6. Georgiana agrees to the experiment because
   1. She hates the birthmark
   2. She is afraid of her husband
   3. She hates the way Aylmer looks at her because of the birthmark
   4. She wants to leave Aylmer to find someone else

**Short Answer.** Answer the questions below (#7-10) in complete sentences. You may use your story to complete the questions. Include textual evidence to support each answer. *These answers must go on a separate sheet of paper.*

1. Why was Aylmer so disturbed by the birthmark when others considered it a “charm”?
2. How can this short story be a representation of a “man vs. society” conflict? (Hint: Consider the author’s purpose and agenda in writing the story!)
3. Choose one example of foreshadowing in the story. Include the direct quote and explain how it is an example of foreshadowing.
4. What is the theme of Hawthorne’s piece? Remember: avoid “cookie cutter” answers that do not carry any merit. Explain your choice with evidence from the story.