The Minister’s Black Veil

# Notes

* Setting: Puritan Age, focus on religion
* We start off with Mr. Hooper, the Reverend entering church, wearing a black veil.
* There are whispers within town, questioning whether or not Reverend Hooper was even behind the mask. People began being frightened.
* Rev. Hooper’s philosophy was not scream or yell during sermon, but convince his congregation based on his persuasive skills.
* This day, he was a bit more somber than usual. His sermon focused on secret sin.
* His veil was very much a symbol of that “secret sin” that he was carrying.
* After church, the townspeople started gossiping and becoming afraid of Rev. Hooper.
* Still, he wouldn’t take off his veil, even at the funeral he held service for- a young girl.
* Later that day, Rev. Hooper directed a wedding, which he also attended wearing the veil. This left a dark shadow over the wedding.
* The next day, people became fed up with the veil and sent the authorities to remove it. However, they were too afraid to approach the amicable Reverend, so the veil remained.
* Finally one person decided to ask the Reverend why he was wearing the veil: his wife. She felt entitled to know.
* He told her that he was wearing the veil like everyone is, to hide his sin.
* This veil is symbolic to Reverend Hooper as the secret sin that everyone has.
* Because he wouldn’t take the veil off, his wife left him. He told her that he’d take it off when everyone’s veil was removed (meaning death).
* The people in the town became afraid of him, and ran when we came near.
* His congregation felt that he “brought them to light” and before that, they were with him behind the veil.
* People only called upon the Reverend when they were feeling guilty.
* All of his congregation was old or dead now (time had passed).
* Now he is old and sick.
* There are Reverends at his deathbed as well as Elizabeth (his wife).
* Reverend Clark of Westbury wants Rev. Hooper to remove his veil before he dies, but he says no.
* Rev. Clark still tries to remove, but Rev. Hooper uses his last bit of energy to hold it in place.
* Rev. Hooper says that his veil will stay, as it will on the other people’s faces, too, because they all have secret sins. And if they are afraid of him, they should be afraid of each other, too.
* He died and was buried wearing the black veil.