Izel Mehmet - 8617 A2 English Literature Shakespeare Study Coursework 3005 words

Pearl's statements become less hateful and more loving as she tells her mother that she considers her biological father "**family**" despite having had no prior relationship with him. It is through Pearl that we see that she is not merely a sign of Hester's disloyalty and sin, but in fact physical evidence of the loyal and loving bond between Hester and Dimmesdale as they are united in their child.

Hawthorne also uses another motif as an indication of Hester's disloyalty to her husband and loyalty to Dimmesdale in the titled scarlet letter itself. Upon completing her prison sentence, Hester was ordered by the Puritanical Church and government to either name the father of her child or wear the scarlet letter on her chest and suffer through ignominy for the rest of her life. Hawthorne has Hester choose to adorn the scarlet letter on her clothes, like Austen, Hawthorne has an action show the reader where a character's loyalty lies here. This choice makes it very clear to the reader that Hester would rather take a punishment which in the given society was seen as very harsh rather than give up the name of her love interest. While the scarlet letter itself is a physical symbol of Hester's disloyalty to her husband through adultery, the choice she makes is a sign of the strong and loyal bond she shales with Dimmesdale.

In conclusion, it is clear to see that Shak speare, Austen and Haythorne approach and present the loyalty in relationships through a variety of technique. While it would be easy to say that a propriector loyal or disloyate with Hamlet', 'Pride and Prejudice' and 'The Scarlet Letter' that loyalty or a lack thereof is not as straightforward as that and that there are grey areas in terms of what is morally correct and what society deems is the correct course of action to take regardless of how the characters may feel about the situation or about one another. We have also seen that loyalty can be presented in more ways than through actions concerning both parties. We see that loyalty has a lot to do with making choices and sacrifices such as Hester's choice to bear punishment rather than give up Dimmesdale's name in "The Scarlet Letter", Lydia's choice to tarnish her family's reputation by eloping in "Pride and Prejudice" and Gertrude's choice to marry Claudius in 'Hamlet', despite the fact that he is her husband's brother, giving the audience the idea that Gertrude's loyalties lie with herself and her status alone.

Overall, it can be said that these three writers have all presented loyalty in very subtle ways, giving truth to the old saying "actions speak louder than words"