

The House of the Seven Gables

Nathaniel Hawthorne

Why does opening the cent-shop feel like a public fall to Hepzibah rather than simply a new job?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Hepzibah becomes a shopkeeper
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION	Chapter II · The Little Shop-Window
START	Old Maid Pyncheon is setting up a cent-shop!
END	Poor business!
PASSAGE ID	sec-h7g-02

THE MOVE

Read social shame through the audience a character imagines

WHY THIS PASSAGE

For Hepzibah, opening a cent-shop is not simply employment; she imagines generations of social status watching her descend into trade. Shame comes from the audience in her mind as much as from actual customers.

MARK

Underline the practical facts of opening the shop. Circle every thought about family rank, public opinion, or what others will say. Star the imagined judgment that makes the work feel like humiliation.

NOTICE

- What is objectively happening when Hepzibah becomes a shopkeeper?

- What social story does she attach to that action?
- How much of her shame comes from actual treatment and how much from the audience she imagines?

THINK

Answer provisionally: Why does opening the cent-shop feel like a public fall to Hepzibah rather than simply a new job? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: Why does opening the cent-shop feel like a public fall to Hepzibah rather than simply a new job? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	The shop feels like a public fall because Hepzibah reads paid trade through inherited class expectations. She imagines family rank and other people's judgment watching her cross a social boundary.
EVIDENCE	Use the practical fact of opening the shop together with public comments, family-name awareness, or Hepzibah's imagined audience.
WATCH FOR	Do not assume shopkeeping is objectively humiliating. The shame is produced by Hepzibah's social framework.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

STUDENT PAGE · SAME PASSAGE, SAME THINKING

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Why does opening the cent-shop feel like a public fall to Hepzibah rather than simply a new job?

START ANCHOR

Old Maid Pyncheon is setting up a cent-shop!

END ANCHOR

Poor business!

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK - Underline the practical facts of opening the shop. Circle every thought about family rank, public opinion, or what others will say. Star the imagined judgment that makes the work feel like humiliation.
2. NOTICE - What is objectively happening when Hepzibah becomes a shopkeeper? What social story does she attach to that action? How much of her shame comes from actual treatment and how much from the audience she imagines?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: Why does opening the cent-shop feel like a public fall to Hepzibah rather than simply a new job?
4. WRITE - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.