

Summer Assignment Honors/AP English III

Your reading assignment is *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne. Please find supplemental material about the Puritans to enhance your understanding.

1. Define the 30 vocabulary words from *The Scarlet Letter*.
2. Answer study guide questions. **Answers must be typed.** You do not need to type the questions-just answers. Leave a space between answers.
3. Discuss the significance of the 10 quotations.

In addition to vocabulary and short answer questions on the final test, you will need to identify the speakers of various quotations; therefore, it is crucial that you read the actual text of the novel and not just a summary.

Do not collaborate with anyone on any portion of this assignment! Cheating or plagiarism will result in a zero! If you have any questions, you may e-mail one of us at robin.miller@cmcss.net or elizabeth.joosse@cmcss.net.

This assignment is due on the first full day of school. The test will take place during the first full week of school. Failure to complete the summer assignment will result in a zero out of a 200 point assignment. You will not be dropped from the class after August 1 regardless of whether you complete the summer assignment- meaning you will have to keep the failing grade.

See you in August!

Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Joosse

Summer Assignment vocabulary (*The Scarlet Letter*)

Define the following words.

1. inauspicious
2. venerable
3. impropriety
4. ignominy
5. abate
6. infamy
7. uncongenial
8. inscrutable
9. imbued
10. inexplicable
11. importunate
12. sagacious
13. inimical
14. iniquity
15. impute
16. abased
17. benign
18. obviated
19. pall
20. impelled
21. piety
22. comports
23. gules
24. penance
25. antipathy
26. stigma
27. unscrupulous
28. plumage
29. undulate
30. countenances

The Scarlet Letter

Chapters 1-3

1. What is the date of publication, and who is the author?
2. What is the setting?
3. According to Hawthorne, what are the first two things built in any new society and why?
4. What are the two theories about the rosebush?
5. What are the women under the scaffold saying about Hester?
6. Why is Hester on the scaffold?
7. Who is the slightly deformed man in the crowd? Describe him.
8. Who asks Hester to name her fellow sinner, and why is he selected?

Chapters 4-7

1. Who is Roger Chillingworth, and what promise did Hester make to him?
2. Why does Roger feel that he has wronged Hester?
3. Why does Hester remain in Boston?
4. How does Hester support Pearl and herself?
5. What item is Hester never asked to make and why?
6. How do the clothes of Hester and Pearl differ?
7. Describe the attacks on Hester.
8. What supernatural power does the "A" seem to have?
9. What is the significance of Pearl's name?
10. What blasphemy does Pearl utter?
11. Why is Hester visiting the Governor?
12. How does Pearl scatter the mob, and what does this indicate about her temperament?

Chapters 8-10

1. Why is Chillingworth living with Dimmesdale? Whose idea is it and why?
2. What is Hester's argument for keeping Pearl?
3. To whom does Pearl uncharacteristically show affection?
4. How and why is Chillingworth's appearance changing?
5. What physical changes have occurred to Dimmesdale?
6. How does the term "leech" have a double meaning?
7. How does Chillingworth get the "proof" he needs? How does he react?

Chapters 11-13

1. As Dimmesdale's health declines, how is he viewed by his congregation?
2. How is Dimmesdale contributing to his own poor health?
3. Why is Hester out in the middle of the night?
4. How many years have passed since Hester stood on the scaffold?
5. What is Dimmesdale's response when Pearl asks if he will stand on the scaffold with them on the morrow?
6. What explanation is given for the red "A" in the sky?
7. What excuse is made by the sexton for the glove found on the scaffold?
8. Why does Hester resolve to meet Chillingworth?
9. How does the Meaning of the "A" begin to change among the villagers?

Chapters 14-17

1. What is Hester's response when Chillingworth tells her that the magistrates might let her remove the "A"?
2. Why does Hester pity Chillingworth?
3. What connection has Pearl made between Dimmesdale's gesture and Hester's "A"?
4. How is the forest itself symbolic?
5. What observation does Pearl make about the sunshine?
6. What is Hester's response when Pearl asked if she had ever met the Black Man?
7. How is the brook symbolic of Pearl?
8. What remark does Dimmesdale make about his "A"?
9. Why does Dimmesdale consider Dimmesdale's sin to be worse than his own?
10. What is Hester's solution for their dilemma?

Chapters 18-22

1. What is the symbolic significance of Hester removing the cap and letter?
2. What is Nature's reaction? How is this symbolic?
3. In chapter 19, why does Pearl refuse to cross the brook to her mother?
4. On his way home from the meeting with Hester, what temptations does Dimmesdale face?
5. What makes Chillingworth aware that Dimmesdale no longer trusts him?
6. What shocking news does Hester receive?
7. What is different about Dimmesdale's demeanor? What is Mistress Hibbin's observation?
8. What additional news does Hester receive from the Captain?

Chapters 23-24

1. What is the substance of Dimmesdale's sermon?
2. How does he shock his audience?
3. What "spell" is broken for Pearl?
4. What message is Dimmesdale trying to impress upon his audience?
5. What are the three different accounts of what took place on the scaffold?
6. What are the fates of the other characters?
7. Explain: "On a field sable, the letter "A" gules".

Briefly explain the significance of the following quotations:

1. She shuddered to believe, yet could not help believing, that it gave her sympathetic knowledge of the hidden sins in other hearts. (Chapter 5)
2. Here, she said to herself, had been the scene of her guilt, and here should be the scene of her earthly punishment; and so, perchance, the torture of her daily shame would at length purge her soul, and work out another purity than that which she had lost; more saint-like, because the result of martyrdom. Chapter 5
3. Day after day, she looked fearfully into the child's expanding nature, ever dreading to detect some dark and wild peculiarity, that should correspond with the guiltiness to which she owed her being. Chapter 6
4. "Come away, mother! Come away, or yonder old Black man will catch you! He hath got hold of the minister already. (Chapter 10)
5. The physician advanced directly in front of his patient, laid his hand upon his bosom, and thrust aside the vestment, that, hitherto, had always covered it even from the professional eye. (Chapter 10)
6. "He has violated in cold blood the sanctity of the human heart. Thou and I, Hester, never did so." (Chapter 17)
7. "Mother ", said she, "was that the same minister that kissed me by the brook?" (Chapter 22)
8. "Hadst thou sought the whole earth over," said he, looking darkly at the clergyman, "there was no one place so secret, no high place nor lowly place, where thou couldst have escaped me-save on this very scaffold!" (Chapter 23)
9. "Be true! Be true! Show freely to the world, if not your worst, yet some trait whereby the worst may be inferred!" (Chapter 23)
10. ...the scarlet letter ceased to be a stigma which attracted the world's scorn and bitterness, and became a type of something to be sorrowed over, and looked upon with awe, yet with reverence, too. (Chapter 23)