

The Scarlet Letter

Enrichment / Writing 3

Students will not complete every activity suggested in this section. Writing assignments should be done neatly in a notebook or typed with double spacing.

Studying the Novel

Setting: Continue choosing strong descriptive words that set the tone of this narrative. Add at least five words to your list begun in Unit 1. Record synonyms from a thesaurus.

Characters: Continue recording the character traits of Hester, Pearl, Dimmesdale and Chillingworth by noting new insights. Revelations concerning Hester are in Chapter 13 & 15; Pearl: Chapters 12 & 15; Dimmesdale: Chapters 11 & 12; Chillingworth: Chapter 10, 11 & 14.

Plot: The plot is simply a series of events arranged logically with a beginning, middle and end in which a conflict and resolution exist. The beginning of the narrative typically introduces the conflict; the conflict escalates in the middle and climaxes towards the end with the resolution. Conflicts may be categorized in three ways: man against man (the protagonist, or main character, against the antagonist, or opposing character), man against nature (the main character against an inanimate force such as a storm), man against himself (an internal struggle within the mind or heart of the main character). More than one conflict may be present in a novel.

In your notebook, title a page “Plot” and analyze these questions.

1. Classify the main struggle (man against man, man against nature, man against himself). Is there more than one conflict? Explain.
2. What conflict was described in the beginning of the novel?
3. Who is the main character? Who are the supporting characters?
4. List key minor characters. What is their role in the conflict or possible resolution?
5. How has the setting affected the plot?
6. What climax occurred in Chapter 12?

Summarizing

Continue summarizing each chapter after you read it. Rereading your summaries should give you a good overview of how the plot is progressing. The summary is no place for extra details, just the facts and key points.



Thinking and Writing. Choose from these topics.

- A. More symbols are presented in Chapters 11 through 15. Dimmesdale's late-night trip to the pillory, the meteor's red mark in the sky, Pearl's green letter "A" are a few.
- Choose three symbols from these chapters and discuss their meanings. This will take forethought on your part. Do not rush to write, first think through what you want to say. Follow a plan with your writing. Know the points you wish to make, organize the points so they flow well and proofread carefully. Your essay should be at least five paragraphs. The first paragraph should introduce your topic, the second, third and fourth should develop your ideas and the fifth should summarize and tie together the body of your text. Follow the guidelines given in Unit 1.
- B. Scripture tells us that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God". It also states that "the wages of sin are death". Hawthorne is making some statements about sin and salvation that may or may not be true. Write an essay about man's sin and God's salvation proving your viewpoint through Scripture. Note where you agree or disagree with Hawthorne. Your paragraph should be at least three paragraphs--probably longer. Follow the guidelines given in Unit 1.
- You will need to footnote quotations from scripture. Look in your grammar handbook for information on how to footnote.
- C. Answer these questions following the guidelines given in Unit 1.
1. How does living for revenge destroy us? Using Chillingworth as an example, explain specifically what it is about revenge that is so destructive.
 2. How is Dimmesdale's hypocrisy evident? List several areas where you can see his hypocrisy and explain in what ways it is displayed and the result.
 3. Contrast the suffering of Hester with the suffering of Dimmesdale.
 4. Both Chillingworth and Pearl are victims of Hester's and Dimmesdale's sin. Contrast the difference between them.
 5. Chillingworth states that the course he and Hester have taken is not their fault, it was fate (see the end of Chapter 14). Do you agree? Explain.
 6. How had Hester come to hate Chillingworth? Has she reason to? Explain.
 7. In what way has the scarlet letter failed to do its office?
 8. How is Hester trying to gain salvation? How is Dimmesdale? Explain. What is wrong with what they are doing? Explain.
 9. What must each (Hester, Chillingworth, and Dimmesdale) do to yet salvage their lives? Explain.

