

Dear Honors English 11 Student:

Welcome to the eleventh grade and your comprehensive study of American literature, analytical writing, and SAT and SOL preparation. To begin your journey through the classics of American literature, you are to participate in summer reading. Your assignment this summer is to read The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne.

You do not have to read “The Custom House.” For *The Scarlet Letter*, you are to analyze theme.

1. **Bookmark/flag the text with small post-it notes as you read.** Watching for theme as you read is a way of staying alert and thinking about what is being read. Students should not bookmark too much; being selective is a thinking process that helps “teach” the novel. A heavily marked book is difficult to review because it is messy and confusing to the eye. You may add written notations to your sticky notes such as *symbolism of the scaffold*. After you finish reading the book, review what you have marked and discard any sticky notes that no longer seem important. Do not write in the school’s novel.

2. **Keep a HANDWRITTEN journal.** No typed journal will be accepted unless Mr. Marowitz is contacted via email about a legally documented disability that prevents you from being able to handwrite your work.
 - Use blue or black ink to write your journal. Only legible work will be graded.
 - You must keep your journal very neat and professional looking.
 - You may use text that you have bookmarked.
 - You should have at least fifty textual examples that correlate to at least 5 different thematic ideas.
 - Your textual selections should range from chapter one to chapter twenty-four. You should not have a high concentration of selections from one chapter or part of the novel.
 - You may not use my example illustrating the required format.

The format of the journal is

Number	Thematic Idea	Textual evidence	page
1	The natural world vs. structured Puritan society	<i>It may serve, let us hope, to symbolize some sweet moral blossom, that may be found along the track, or relieve the darkening close of a tale of human frailty and sorrow.</i> (write out the complete quote)	34

Thematic Ideas

The natural world versus structured Puritan society	Dimmesdale's sins
The individual versus societal expectations	Truth vs. secrets
Scientific thinking versus spirituality	The significance of color
Three forces in conflict: science, nature, and religion	Violating the sanctity of the human heart
Significance of the scaffold	Flowers vs. weeds
Pearl as a symbol of more than the unruly child	Each character as a representation of a philosophy of life
Hester's sins	Setting reflects character
Chillingworth's sins	Sunshine versus darkness
The worth of women in society	Being true to oneself
	The letter A as a dynamic character
	Hester as an artist

- Your work is to be your own. You are not to share answers or quotes. You are not to examine former students' notes and papers. Doing so is a violation of the PGHS Honor Code. Using any part of a study aide like Sparknotes, Grade Saver, Cliffnotes, Novel Guide, etc. in your journal is plagiarism and will be treated as an honor code violation. Please remember paraphrasing any other source is plagiarism. Any direct wording must be in quotation marks and have a source citation.
- This work is due on the first day of class! It is your first grade.
- You may try to contact me with questions via email. I do not check it every day during the summer, but I will respond whenever I see the message. My email is smarowitz@pgs.k12.va.us
- If you lose this sheet, this assignment will also be posted on my blog page found on the Prince George County Schools website.

When planning for next school year, please the following recommended supplies for this class:

- A three-ring binder
- A flash drive for saving your work
- #2 pencils
- Black and/or blue pens
- Highlighters
- Index cards
- Loose-leaf notebook paper
- An email address that you check often, an Edmodo account, a TurnItIn.com account, and a Remind.com account- You will receive information on all of these accounts the first week of school.

We are looking forward to a wonderful, productive school year in which you will come to appreciate and enjoy American literature.