

SCARLET LETTER ESSAY 11H

GRADE VALUE

Test Grade

TASK

Write a literary analysis essay in which you explore one of the topics provided (see back).

REQUIRED ELEMENTS

- Include at least 2 quotes from *The Scarlet Letter*
 - No other sources are required, but if you use them, cite them properly
 - No quote dumping. Quotes should be introduced and explain in a way that flows. Do not begin or end a paragraph with a quote.
- Formal academic tone (use third person, avoid contractions, slang, and informal diction)
- ***Include word count at the end of the essay. 600 word min. (does NOT include heading)***

FORMAT

- MLA (typed, Times New Roman 12pt font, heading, margins, citations, etc.)

TURNITIN.COM

- Submit your paper online to turnitin.com by 8:00am on the due date.
 - Class ID: 18494398
 - Enrollment Password: frankenstein
- You will also turn in a hard copy to Mrs. Lee at the beginning of class on the due date.

DUE DATE: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH

ESSAY TOPICS

TOPIC: CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

Analyze the development of Hester Prynne, Pearl, Arthur Dimmesdale, OR Roger Chillingworth. Using examples from the book, describe the character and explain how he/she changes. What point is Hawthorne trying to make through this character? Analyze the significance of this character's transformation to the book as a whole.

TOPIC: SYMBOLISM

Select 2-3 symbols to analyze. Using at least one example per symbol from the book, describe the symbol itself. Then explain the deeper meaning of what it represents. Connect the symbols to the book as a whole. What is Hawthorne trying to say through the symbols? Consider exploring any images or ideas that these symbols evoke.

TOPIC: MOTIFS

Identify one motif in the novel. Explain what the motif represents, and provide 2-3 examples of when the motif occurs. What is the purpose of Hawthorne's use of this motif? Be sure to address repetition and imagery in your essay. Connect the motif to the book as a whole.

TOPIC: DUALITY

The Scarlet Letter has several examples of duality. However, these examples are not always black and white. Hawthorne dwells in the gray areas that exist between issues, making the book a complex work that is often morally ambiguous. Find one example of duality in *The Scarlet Letter* to focus on for your essay. The examples may be characters, symbols, or other contrasts.

TOPIC: THEME

Analyze one of the following themes:

- Corruption of Sin and Evil
- Effects of Guilt and Shame
- Public vs. Private Lives
- Judgement, Punishment, and Hypocrisy
- Isolation
- Gender
- Nature

Using strong examples from the book, explain and analyze the theme. Connect the themes to the book as a whole. What is Hawthorne trying to say?

TOPIC: CUSTOM

Customize your own essay topic. It must be pre-approved by Mrs. Lee.