

SCARLET LETTER ESSAY

Type of Essay: Rhetorical Analysis

Paragraph 1: Introduction

Paragraph 2: Symbols or Motifs

Describe the symbol itself, then explain the deeper meaning of what it represents. What is Hawthorne trying to say through the symbols? Consider exploring any images or ideas that these symbols evoke. When talking about motifs, be sure to address repetition and imagery.

Symbols

- The Scarlet Letter
- Forest
- Market-Place

Motifs

- Letter A
- Colors (red, black)
- Scaffold
- Reflections

Paragraph 3: Duality

Hawthorne dwells in the gray areas that exist between issues, making the book a complex work that is often morally ambiguous. Explain the contrast of the two elements of duality and their relationship.

Character Doubles

- Hester/Pearl
- Chillingworth/Dimmesdale
- Hester/Chillingworth
- Hester/Dimmesdale

Thematic Duality

- Public/Private
- Guilt/Innocence
- Hypocrisy
- Nature/Market Place
- Isolation/Community

Paragraph 4: Style

How are these things tools that Hawthorne uses to impart meaning and significance? Why does he use these rhetorical devices? What effect do they give to his writing and to the overall message?

- Diction
- Tone
- Connotation
- Syntax
- Sentence Length

Paragraph 5. Conclusion