



Rosati-Kain Academy English Department
American Literature Summer Reading/Writing Assignments for the Class of 2029

We ask that during the summer you read one novel, and on *looseleaf paper*, you are to take notes, complete chapter questions, and outline a brief essay topic in preparation for the beginning of your sophomore year. All work must be *handwritten* and *original*. You are responsible for finding your own copy of the book mentioned below. Online copies are available (like those found on gutenberg.org).

1. Please read *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne; skip “The Custom House” introduction and begin reading Chapter One. On the first day of class, you will take a quiz to test your understanding of the novel. Prior to the quiz, please answer the study questions below to help you with your reading comprehension, and you may take extra notes on the book as well. Doing these assignments should help you retain information for the quiz (and you will be allowed to use these answers and notes during the quiz).
2. In addition to taking a quiz, you will also discuss this novel at the beginning of the year. To prepare for this discussion, complete a *handwritten* outline of *three body paragraphs* on looseleaf; the outline will be based upon the following topic:

*Reflect on what you have learned about the culture and climate of the Puritan era in the novel. Then, choose **one** of the three main characters in the novel and prove that he or she would be considered the biggest sinner **by his or her community**; use at least three reasons as support.*

The format for *each* of the *three* body paragraphs is below; you may use the following labels in your outline.

- Paragraph Reason/Topic sentence with transition word:
- A bit of backstory for this example:
- A quote with page number citation (36):
- An inference/drawn conclusion:
- A summarizing/clinching sentence that restates the idea of the topic sentence:

Again, these written assignments will be due to your teacher on the first day of English class. They will be checked in, evaluated, and used for discussion purposes. Again, all work (answers, notes, and three-paragraph outline) should be *handwritten on looseleaf*, and all work should be original.

over...

Answer the following questions on looseleaf paper.

Chapter One: Describe the Puritan people found in this chapter. What is the setting—time and place—of the novel (beyond the year 1650)?

Chapter Two: Who is the person in front of the crowd? What is sewn onto her dress? What is she holding in her arms?

Chapter Three: Trace the act of “recognition” in this chapter. What is more of Hester’s history? Why is she considered to be a criminal in her society? What is a theocracy?

Chapter Four: Explain why Hester is suspicious of Chillingworth. Give possible reasons why Roger told Hester not to reveal his identity.

Chapter Five: Why is Hester a Puritan “preacher’s symbol”? Why does she decide to stay in Boston? Contrast Hester’s and Pearl’s clothes. Explain the changing effects of the “A” on Hester.

Chapter Six: Use the five aspects of personality (physical, mental, social, moral, and emotional) to characterize/describe Pearl.

Chapter Seven: Why is it ironic that Governor Bellingham purchases gloves from Hester? Should Pearl stay or not stay with her mother?

Chapter Eight: Describe the relationship between Dimmesdale and Chillingworth. Analyze Pearl’s answers to Rev. Wilson’s questions. Contrast Pearl’s interactions with both ministers.

Chapter Nine: How is “leech” an appropriate name for Chillingworth? What is the community’s attitude toward him in this chapter? Why does Chillingworth live with Dimmesdale? List any possible causes for Dimmesdale’s failing health.

Chapter Ten: Trace changes in Chillingworth’s character. Identify what Chillingworth sees at the end of this chapter while Dimmesdale is asleep.

Chapter 11: How has Chillingworth and Dimmesdale’s relationship changed? How does Dimmesdale’s congregation view him?

Chapter 12: Why does Dimmesdale climb the scaffold at night? Identify the frightening things Dimmesdale sees or hears there. What is the

symbolic significance of the red “A” in the sky (note differences in interpretations).

Chapter 13: Debate the following: Has Hester changed for the better or for the worse?

Chapter 14: Is Chillingworth justified in his evil treatment of Dimmesdale? Why does Hester break her promise to Chillingworth about revealing his identity?

Chapter 15: What are Hester’s feelings toward Chillingworth at this point? Should Hester have lied to Pearl about the meaning of the scarlet letter?

Chapter 16: What is significant about Dimmesdale and Hester meeting in the woods and the sun shining on Pearl but not on Hester?

Chapter 17: What are Hester’s plans for Dimmesdale’s future?

Chapter 18: Prove that the narrator believes Hester’s plans for Dimmesdale’s future are immoral.

Chapter 19: Why does Pearl have a tantrum by the brook?

Chapter 20: Debate the following: Will Hester and Dimmesdale live happily ever after?

Chapter 21: What are Hester’s emotions in this chapter? What does Hester learn from the ship captain? Why is this significant?

Chapter 22: Describe the change in Dimmesdale in this chapter. Illustrate the foreshadowing of Dimmesdale’s confession.

Chapter 23: Trace the community’s reaction to Dimmesdale’s sermon. Evaluate Dimmesdale’s decision to confess (both good and bad reasons).

Chapter 24: Why does Chillingworth die soon after Dimmesdale does? What happens to Pearl? Why does Hester return to Boston? Interpret the epitaph on Hester and Dimmesdale’s gravestone.