

# Unit 4 – Adultery, Rhetoric, and a Red Letter

AP Language and Composition

Mr. Coia

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

## (Tues 1/3) Wed 1/4

- Sign out *The Scarlet Letter*
- Lecture on Hawthorne
- Themes: Alienation; Appearance v. Reality; Breaking society's rules; Nature vs town
- Discuss quotation: "No man, for any considerable period, can wear one face to himself, and another to the multitude, without finally getting bewildered as to which may be the true." –*The Scarlet Letter*, chapter 20
- Define: *Ignominy* and *Physiognomy*
- What to do if you need help?

HW: TSL 1-6; markings

## (Thurs 1/5) Fri 1/6

- **Quiz TSL 1-6**
- Character Quotations: Collect one passage for each of the four main characters
- Practice AP MC 2/4
- Discuss what we know about the first chapter
- Film Clip: Opening scene (20 min)

HW: chaps 7-10; markings; prepare notebook

## (Mon 1/9) Tues 1/10

- **Quiz TSL 7-10**
- **Bring three typed character passages for your character**
- Discussion on chapters

HW: chapters 11-15; markings; 3 character passages

## (Wed 1/11) Thurs 1/12

- Notebook check #4
- **Quiz TSL 11-15**
- AP Practice: TSL Passage #1
- Watch second scaffold scene
- Discussion on questions/rhetoric

HW: chapters 16-20; markings

**A3: Tues 1/17**  
**B1: Wed 1/18**  
**B3: Thurs 1/19**

- *Review*
- *Practice AP quiz*
- *Sem 1 Exam: Full AP Lang Exam-60 MC questions; rhetorical terms full test*

## (Mon 1/23) Tues 1/24

- **Quiz TSL 16-20**
- Bring typed character passages (about 7)
- TSL film clip:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NIUetVd4rsw>
- Visual Rhetoric: Analyzing TSL cartoons
- Incorporating quotations into writing—*They Say, I Say* p. 42-51
- Write one or two paragraphs answering a part of a question from the "Questions for Essay and/or Discussion"; use quotations from the text

HW: chapters 21-24 (End); markings

## (Wed 1/25) Mon 1/30

- **Quiz TSL 21-24**
- Class discussion/sharing passages
- Using hyphenated adjectives sheet—add one or two to your paper

## (Tues 1/31) Wed 2/1

- Bring typed character passages (all 10)
- Class discussion/sharing passages
- Watch final scaffold scene
- Describe Character Recipe assignment
- Writing time

HW: Type Character Recipe

## (Thurs 2/2) Fri 2/3

- RT Quiz 1-62
- Share Character Recipes
- Watch an alternate ending to the book
- Complete Small Group work sheet
- Writing time

HW: Reaction paper (include quotations, *three participles* as sentence starts, and one *hyphenated adjective*—put in italics)

## (Mon 2/6) Tues 2/7

- **Reaction paper due—Bring in two copies**
- Novel turn-in [no book=no paper]

# Unit Objectives

- Analyze and interpret samples of good writing, identifying and explaining an author's use of rhetorical strategies and techniques;
- Apply effective strategies and techniques in their own writing;
- Create and sustain arguments based on readings, research, and/or personal experience;
- Demonstrate understanding and mastery of standard written English as well as stylistic maturity in their own writings;

# Assignments

## **Character Recipe** *15 points Tests/Writing/Projects*

You will demonstrate your understanding of a character by "creating" them in a recipe form. Imagine that you were to cook up that character. I'm asking you to record what comprises that person. See instructions in handout for instructions and example.

## **Reaction Paper** *25 points Tests/Writing/Projects*

Topic: "What *The Scarlet Letter* has to teach in 2017." Be creative, insightful, and show your knowledge of the novel and its themes. Outside of clever content, show off with these requirements:

- 600-800 words
- Use **two** participial phrases as sentence starts. Put only phrase in italics
- Use **one** *I-think-I'm-so-clever hyphenated adjectives*. Put just that phrase in italics
- Use **two** important quotations from the book. Cite properly.

## **Notebook and Supply Check**

You'll need the following for our notebook check (**Wed 1/11**) **Thurs 1/12**. Remember, this is the first, and we'll add to this throughout the year to provide you with an orderly notebook. Therefore, you need ALL the pieces to receive credit. No partial credit offered on this. You need two tabs labeled with the following:

### LA Handouts:

- Unit guide 4 (on top)
- Unit guide 3
- Rhetorical Terms Packet
- SOAPS handout (unit guide 1 p. 5)
- Essay Graphic Organizer for Rhetorical Analysis (unit 2, p. 5)
- Syntax Overview(unit 2, p. 13-16)
- "Letter from Birmingham Jail" (from mrcoia.com)
- "Good Country People" short story (from mrcoia.com)
- "I Know Why a Caged Bird Can't Read"
- "Salvation" (unit 2, p. 7-8)
- "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God" sermon (unit guide 2)
- Sedaris/Alexie Readings
- AP Scam readings
- "Composing Rhetorically" chapter 3 of *Writing America*
- "How Do I Format My Paper?" (unit guide 1 p. 3-4)
- Class Rules sheet, initialed

### LA Classwork:

Notes from lectures, presentations, mini-lessons. Remember you should be taking notes each class period. **You will also have at least 25 sheets of loose-leaf paper.**

## ***The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne**

I suggest reading the summary, then the chapter, then the summary again.

### **Chapter 1 - The Prison-Door**

In this first chapter, Hawthorne sets the scene of the novel — Boston of the seventeenth century. It is June, and a throng of drably dressed Puritans stands before a weather-beaten wooden prison. In front of the prison stands an unsightly plot of weeds and beside it grows a wild rosebush, which seems out of place in this scene dominated by dark colors.

### **Chapter 2 – The Market Place**

The Puritan women waiting outside the prison self-righteously and viciously discuss Hester Prynne and her sin. Hester, proud and beautiful, emerges from the prison. She wears an elaborately embroidered scarlet letter A — standing for "adultery" — on her breast, and she carries a three-month-old infant in her arms.

Hester is led through the unsympathetic crowd to the scaffold of the pillory. Standing alone on the scaffold as punishment for her adulterous behavior, she remembers her past life in England and on the European continent. Suddenly becoming aware of the stern faces looking up at her, Hester painfully realizes her present position of shame and punishment.

### **Chapter 3 – The Recognition**

Hester recognizes a small, rather deformed man standing on the outskirts of the crowd and clutches Pearl fiercely to her bosom. Meanwhile, the man, a stranger to Boston, recognizes Hester and is horror-struck. Inquiring, the man learns of Hester's history, her crime (adultery), and her sentence: to stand on the scaffold for three hours and to wear the symbolic letter A for the rest of her life. The stranger also learns that Hester refuses to name the man with whom she had the sexual affair. This knowledge greatly upsets him, and he vows that Hester's unnamed partner "will be known! — he will be known! — he will be known!"

The Reverend Mr. Dimmesdale, visibly upset, pleads with Hester to name her accomplice. He tells her that she should name her partner in sin because perhaps the man doesn't have the courage to step forward even if he wants to. Yet despite Dimmesdale's passionate appeal, followed by harsher demands from the Reverend Mr. Wilson and from a stern voice in the crowd (presumably that of the deformed stranger), Hester steadfastly refuses to name the father of her child. After a long and tedious sermon by the Reverend Mr. Wilson, during which Hester tries ineffectively to quiet Pearl's crying, she is led back to prison.

### **Chapter 4 – The Interview**

Back in her prison cell, Hester is in a state of nervous frenzy, and Pearl writhes in painful convulsions. That evening, when Roger Chillingworth enters Hester's prison cell, she fears his intentions, but he gives Pearl a draught of medicine that eases the child's pain almost immediately, and she falls asleep. After he persuades Hester to drink a sedative to calm her frayed nerves, the two sit and talk intimately and sympathetically, each of them accepting a measure of blame for Hester's adulterous affair.

Chillingworth, the injured husband, seeks no revenge against Hester, but he is determined to discover the father of Pearl. Although this unidentified man doesn't wear a scarlet A on his clothes as Hester does, Chillingworth vows that he will "read it on his heart." He then makes Hester promise not to reveal his identity. Hester takes an oath to keep Chillingworth's identity a secret, although she expresses the fear that her vow of silence may prove the ruin of her soul.

### **Chapter 5 – Hester at Her Needle**

Her term of imprisonment over, Hester is now free to go anywhere in the world, yet she does not leave Boston; instead, she chooses to move into a small, seaside cottage on the outskirts of town. She supports herself and Pearl through her skill as a seamstress. Her work is in great demand for clothing worn at official ceremonies and among the fashionable women of the town — for every occasion except a wedding.

Despite the popularity of her sewing, however, Hester is a social outcast. The target of vicious abuse by the community, she endures the abuse patiently. Ironically, she begins to believe that the scarlet A allows her to sense sinful and immoral feelings in other people.

### **Chapter 6 – Pearl**

During her first three years, Pearl, who is so named because she came "of great price," grows into a physically beautiful, vigorous, and graceful little girl. She is radiant in the rich and elaborate dresses that Hester sews for her. Inwardly, however, Pearl possesses a complex character. She shows an unusual depth of mind, coupled with a fiery passion that Hester is incapable of controlling either with kindness or

threats. Pearl shows a love of mischief and a disrespect for authority, which frequently reminds Hester of her own sin of passion.

Because both Hester and Pearl are excluded from society, they are constant companions. When Pearl is on walks with her mother, she occasionally finds herself surrounded by the curious children of the village. Rather than attempt to make friends with them, she pelts them with stones and violent words.

Pearl's only companion in her playtime is her imagination. Significantly, in her games of make-believe, she never creates friends; she creates only enemies — Puritans whom she pretends to destroy. But the object that most captures her imagination is the scarlet letter A on her mother's clothing. Hester worries that Pearl is possessed by a fiend, an impression strengthened when Pearl denies having a Heavenly Father and then laughingly demands that Hester tell her where she came from.

### **Chapter 7 – The Governor's Hall**

Hester has heard that certain influential citizens feel Pearl should be taken from her. Alarmed, Hester sets out with Pearl for Governor Bellingham's mansion to deliver gloves that he ordered. More important, however, Hester plans to plead for the right to keep her daughter.

Pearl has been especially dressed for the occasion in an elaborate scarlet dress, embroidered with gold thread. On the way to the governor's mansion, Hester and Pearl are accosted by a group of Puritan children. When they taunt Pearl, she shows a temper as fiery as her appearance, driving the children off with her screams and threats.

Reaching the Governor's large, elaborate, stucco frame dwelling, Hester and Pearl are admitted by a bondsman. Inside a heavy oak hall, Hester and Pearl stand before Governor Bellingham's suit of armor. In its curved, polished breastplate, both Hester's scarlet A and Pearl are distorted. Meanwhile, as Hester contemplates her daughter's changed image, a small group of men approaches. Pearl becomes quiet out of curiosity about the men who are coming down the path.

### **Chapter 8 – The Elf-Child and the Minister**

The group of men approaching Hester and Pearl include Governor Bellingham, the Reverend John Wilson, the Reverend Dimmesdale, and Roger Chillingworth, who, since the story's opening, has been living in Boston as Dimmesdale's friend and personal physician.

The governor, shocked at Pearl's vain and immodest costume, challenges Hester's fitness to raise the child in a Christian way. He asks Reverend Mr. Wilson to test Pearl's knowledge of the catechism. Pearl deliberately pretends ignorance. In answer to the very first question — "Who made thee?" — Pearl replies that she was not made, but that she was "plucked . . . off the bush of wild roses that grew by the prison door."

Horrified, the governor and Mr. Wilson are immediately ready to take Pearl away from Hester, who protests that God gave Pearl to her and that she will not give her up. Pearl is both her happiness and her torture, and she will die before she relinquishes her. She appeals to Dimmesdale to speak for her. Dimmesdale persuades Governor Bellingham and Mr. Wilson that Hester should be allowed to keep Pearl, whom God has given to her as both a blessing and a reminder of her sin, causing Chillingworth to remark, "You speak, my friend, with a strange earnestness." Pearl, momentarily solemn, caresses Dimmesdale's hand and receives from the minister a furtive kiss on the head.

Leaving the mansion, Hester is approached by Mistress Hibbins, Governor Bellingham's sister. Hester refuses the woman's invitation to a midnight meeting of witches in the forest, saying she must take Pearl home, but she adds that, if she had lost Pearl, she would willingly have signed on with the devil.

### **Chapter 9 – The Leech**

Since first appearing in the community, Chillingworth has been well received by the townspeople, not only because they can use his services as a physician, but also because of his special interest in their ailing clergyman, Arthur Dimmesdale. In fact, some of the Puritans even view it as a special act of Providence that a man of Chillingworth's knowledge should have been "dropped," as it were, into their community just when their beloved young minister's health seemed to be failing. And, although Dimmesdale protests that he needs no medicine and is prepared to die if it is the will of God, he agrees to put his health in Chillingworth's hands. The two men begin spending much time together and, finally, at Chillingworth's

suggestion, they move into the same house, where, although they have separate apartments, they can move back and forth freely.

Gradually, some of the townspeople, without any real evidence except for the growing appearance of evil in Chillingworth's face, begin to develop suspicions about the doctor. Rumors about his past and suggestions that he practices "the black art" with fire brought from hell gain some acceptance. Many of the townspeople also believe that, rather than being in the care of a Christian physician, Arthur Dimmesdale is in the hands of Satan or one of his agents who has been given God's permission to struggle with the minister's soul for a time. Despite the look of gloom and terror in Dimmesdale's eyes, all of them have faith that Dimmesdale's strength is certain to bring him victory over his tormentor.

#### **Chapter 10 – The Leech and His Patient**

In this and the next few chapters, Chillingworth investigates the identity of Pearl's father for the sole purpose of taking revenge. Adopting the attitude of a judge seeking truth and justice, he quickly becomes fiercely obsessed by his search into Dimmesdale's heart. He is frequently discouraged in his attempts to pry loose Dimmesdale's secret, but he always returns to his "digging" with all his intelligence and passion.

Most of Chapter 10 concerns the pulling and tugging by Chillingworth at the heart and soul of Dimmesdale. One day in Chillingworth's study, they are interrupted in their earnest discussion by Pearl and Hester's voices outside in the graveyard. They comment on Pearl's strange behavior and then return to their discussion. Watching Hester and Pearl depart, Dimmesdale agrees with Chillingworth that Hester is better off with her sin publicly displayed than she would be with it concealed.

When Chillingworth renews his probing of Dimmesdale's conscience, suggesting that he can never cure Dimmesdale as long as the minister conceals anything, the minister says that his sickness is a "sickness of the soul" and passionately cries out that he will not reveal his secret to "an earthly physician." Dimmesdale rushes from the room and Chillingworth smiles at his success.

One day, not long afterward, Chillingworth finds Dimmesdale asleep in a chair. Pulling aside the minister's vestment, he stares at the clergyman's chest. What he sees there causes "a wild look of wonder, joy, and horror," and he does a spontaneous dance of ecstasy.

#### **Chapter 11 – The Interior of a Heart**

Feeling that he is in full possession of Dimmesdale's secret, Chillingworth begins his unrelenting torture of the minister, subtly tormenting him with comments designed to trigger fear and agony. Dimmesdale does not realize Chillingworth's motives, but he nonetheless comes to fear and abhor him. As Dimmesdale's suffering becomes more painful and his body grows weaker, his popularity among the congregation grows stronger. Such mistaken adoration, however, further tortures Dimmesdale and brings him often to the point of making a public confession that he is Pearl's father. The minister's sermons are eloquent, but his vague assertions of his own sinful nature are taken by his parishioners as further evidence of his holiness.

Because Dimmesdale is incapable of confessing that he was Hester's lover and that he is Pearl's father — the one act necessary to his salvation — he substitutes self-punishment. He beats himself with a bloody whip and keeps frequent all-night vigils during which his mind is plagued by frightening visions. On one such night while he is seeking peace, Dimmesdale dresses carefully in his clerical clothes and leaves the house.

#### **Chapter 12 – The Minister's Vigil**

After leaving the house, Dimmesdale walks to the scaffold where, seven years earlier, Hester Prynne stood, wearing her sign of shame and holding Pearl. Now, in the damp, cool air of the cloudy May night, Dimmesdale mounts the steps while the town sleeps. Realizing the mockery of his being able to stand there now, safe and unseen, where he should have stood seven years ago before the townspeople, Dimmesdale is overcome by a self-hatred so terrible that it causes him to cry aloud into the night.

Hester and Pearl, who are returning from Governor Winthrop's deathbed, mount the scaffold, and the three of them stand hand-in-hand, Hester and Dimmesdale linked by Pearl. Twice, Pearl asks Dimmesdale if he will stand there with them at noon the next day; the minister says he will stand there with them on "the great judgment day." As he speaks, a strange light in the sky illuminates the scaffold and its surroundings. Looking up, Dimmesdale seems to see in the sky a dull red light in the shape of an immense letter A. At the same instant, Dimmesdale is aware that Pearl is pointing toward

Roger Chillingworth who stands nearby, grimly smiling up at the three people on the scaffold. Overcome with terror, Dimmesdale asks Hester about the true identity of Chillingworth. Remembering her promise to Chillingworth, Hester remains silent.

After the next morning's sermon, the sexton startles the minister by returning one of his gloves, which was found on the scaffold. ("Satan dropped it there, I take it, intending a scurrilous jest against your reverence.") The sexton also asks about the great red letter A that appeared in the sky the past night.

#### **Chapter 13 – Another View of Hester**

Following her conversation with Dimmesdale on the scaffold, Hester is shocked by the changes in him. While he seems to have retained his intelligence, his nerve is gone. He is morally weak, and she can only conclude that "a terrible machinery had been brought to bear, and was still operating on Mr. Dimmesdale's well-being and repose." Hester decides she has an obligation to help this man.

Four years have gone by, and Hester's position in the community has changed: She has been given credit for bearing her shame with courage, and her life has been one of purity since Pearl's birth. While Dimmesdale's sermons have become more humane and praised because of his suffering, Hester's position has risen because of her charity. Her scarlet A now stands for "Able." But this has come with a price: no friends, no passion, no love or affection.

Through adversity, Hester has forged a new place for herself on the edge of Puritan society. In contrast, Dimmesdale's mental balance has suffered greatly. Now she must help the man who seems to be on "the verge of lunacy." In fact, she feels it has been an error on her part not to step forward before. So she resolves to speak with her husband.

#### **Chapter 14 – Hester and the Physician**

While walking on the peninsula with Pearl, Hester sees Chillingworth and sends Pearl down to play by the seashore while she speaks with her husband. She is surprised at the changes in Chillingworth just as she was shocked by Dimmesdale's spiritual ailment and aging.

Realizing Chillingworth is in the grip of the devil, she feels responsible for "another ruin." According to Hester, her promise has caused Chillingworth to do evil to the minister, but Chillingworth denies his role at first. Then he admits that, although he used to be kind, gentle, and affectionate, he now allows evil to use him. The physician believes it his fate to become a fiend. He releases Hester from her promise of silence.

#### **Chapter 15 – Hester and Pearl**

As Chillingworth leaves, Hester recognizes how evil he has become and realizes she hates him. Meanwhile, Pearl has entertained herself quite well: she played with her image in a pool, made boats of birch bark, and threw pebbles at beach-birds. Finally, she uses seaweed to make a scarf and then decorates her bosom with a green letter A. Pearl wants to know what the scarlet letter means. Hester is tempted to tell her because she has no one else in whom she can confide. But despite repeated questions by Pearl, Hester says she wears the letter for "the sake of the gold thread" — the first time she had "been false to the symbol on her bosom." Pearl is not satisfied and continues to question Hester until Hester threatens to shut Pearl in a dark closet.

#### **Chapter 16 – A Forest Walk**

For several days Hester tries unsuccessfully to intercept Dimmesdale on one of his frequent walks along the shore or through the woods. When she hears that he will be returning from a trip, she goes with Pearl into the forest, hoping to meet the minister on his return home. As she and Pearl walk along the narrow path through the dense woods, flickering gleams of sunshine break through the heavy gray clouds above them. Pearl suggests the sunshine is running away from Hester because of the A on her bosom. In contrast, Pearl, being a child without any such letter runs and "catches" a patch of light; then, as Hester approaches, the sunshine disappears.

Pearl asks Hester to tell her about the Black Man. She has heard stories about him and questions Hester about her dealings with him and whether the scarlet letter is his mark. Under Pearl's questioning, Hester confesses, "Once in my life I met the Black Man! . . . This scarlet letter is his mark!"

Having reached the depths of the forest, Hester and Pearl sit on a heap of moss beside a brook. Just then footsteps are heard on the path, and Hester sends Pearl away, but not before the girl asks whether it is the Black Man approaching and whether Dimmesdale holds his hand over his heart to cover the Black Man's sign. Before Hester can answer, Dimmesdale comes upon them. The minister looks haggard and feeble and moves listlessly as though he has no purpose or desire to live. He holds his hand over his heart.

**(Talk to me if you'd like chapters 17-24)**

*The Scarlet Letter* **QUESTIONS FOR ESSAY AND/OR DISCUSSION**

1. Identify the sin of Hester, Dimmesdale, and Chillingworth, and trace the consequences of that sin on the person's life and character.
2. Identify and explain at least three ways in which Hawthorne is part of the Romantic tradition and at least two ways in which he repudiates that tradition.
3. Name three characteristics of Hawthorne's style and cite examples of each.
4. Identify and explain the symbolism for two of the following items:
  - a. light and shadow
  - b. the scaffold
  - c. the rosebush and the weeds
  - d. the letter "A"
  - e. colors
  - f. the forest
  - g. the town

5. According to Hawthorne, what are the moral consequences of sin and how does one become redeemed? Cite incidents from the story.

**Quotations from Nathaniel Hawthorne**

- Trusting no man as his friend, he could not recognize his enemy when the latter actually appeared. (p. 128)
- To the untrue man, the whole universe is false. (p. 142)
- No man for any considerable period can wear one face to himself and another to the multitude, without finally getting bewildered as to which may be the true. (p. 203)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Hyphenated Adjectives (compound adjectives)**

1. The home school movement continues to grow in America.
2. Fred's ninety dollar jacket is under the bleachers.
3. The three month baby sat near the door.
4. Kramer applied for a small business loan.
5. Hanna's long term plan is to finish college.
6. Her better late than never attitude annoyed us.
7. The DMZ is a two hour trip.
8. Her bird like nose was the focus point of discussion.
9. Our compound adjective lesson flew past the students.
10. Does America portray a hands off attitude in some countries while maintaining an in your face posture in others?

**Try your own:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

## ***The Scarlet Letter* Character Recipe**

Mr. Coia

Objective: You will demonstrate your understanding of a character by "creating" them in a recipe form. Imagine that you were to cook up that character. I'm asking you to record what comprises that person.

### **Preparation Tips:**

#### **Prewriting**

1. Select a character from *The Scarlet Letter*
2. List character traits and descriptions as they appear in the novel, short story, biography, etc.
3. Determine and list events or forces that they believe helped shape the character.
4. Look at a few recipes from magazines to see how they are written.

#### **Writing**

Create a recipe that the author might have used to develop the character they have selected. Baste themselves in creative juices every so often. You'll need at least 10 ingredients, and the directions should be somehow connected to the character.

#### **Revising**

Stir. Add ingredients. Check to make sure preparation instructions are clear and in logical order.

#### **Proofreading**

Check spelling, abbreviations for measurements, and that preparation instructions are delivered using imperative sentences (if you don't know what one is, find out!).

### **Here's an example:**

Beverly Lewis  
10/18/2010  
Character Recipe  
LA 11  
Mr. Coia  
173 words

#### **Reverend Hale's Puritan Turnovers**

##### Ingredients:

3 cups Religious Fervor (Puritan flavor)  
2 cups Faulty Logic  
1 cup Fear of Authorities  
1 bunch Books Weighted with Authority  
3 heaping tablespoons Pride  
3 drops Yellow food coloring  
pinch of Truth  
1 pint Compassion  
sprinkle Guilt  
1 piece Rope

##### Directions:

Start with Religious Fervor and Books Weighted with Authorities. Knead until thoroughly mixed. Slowly fold in Faulty Logic, one chunk at a time. Sprinkle Pride over mixture and blend until thoroughly combined. Place in a hot Salem kettle. When mixture is in the heat, the backbone will be exposed. Carefully remove and discard. Add Yellow food coloring.

During cooking, mixture will slowly turn colors. Carefully add Truth. The yellow color will fade, giving way to a vibrant color. The Pride in the mixture will shrink, giving way to a healthier formation. Add Compassion. The Turnovers will remove themselves from the heat. Serve on a plain dish, garnished with a portion of Rope .

Preparation Time: Three months

Serves: Two people: Elizabeth and John Proctor. Perhaps not quite enough for either.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Per: \_\_\_\_\_

### **The Scarlet Letter Small Group Work**

1. Share Character Recipes with one another. Which had the best ingredients? The best directions?
2. Discuss characters' redemptions in the novel. How, if at all, did the characters find redemption? Jot down a few thoughts.

Hester	Dimmesdale
Chillingworth	Pearl

3. Look at the four cartoons. Where is the humor? Connections to the novel?
4. Read the "Five Misconceptions about *The Scarlet Letter*." What parts do you agree? Disagree? Underline important phrases and ideas.

**Five misconceptions about *The Scarlet Letter*.** (1) Hawthorne paints a historically accurate picture of the New England Puritans. Hawthorne's portrayal of the Puritans is part of his satiric design, and writers of satire exaggerate to make their points. Hawthorne's Puritans have little in common with the original Puritans of Old and New England, and nothing in common with the picture of the Puritans that emerges from their own writings. (2) The fact that Hawthorne portrays the Puritans negatively demonstrates his rejection of Christianity in this book. We need to make a distinction between the behavior of the Puritan community and their doctrine. The book ultimately affirms Christian and Puritan doctrine, while exposing the behavior of the religious community portrayed in the story. (3) This is a completely gloomy book. The spectacle of sin and guilt is, indeed, a sad one, but the story moves toward a celebration of Christian salvation, and the characters win other victories along the way. (4) Hawthorne really did run across a scarlet letter A while working in the local customhouse. The account that the narrator of *The Scarlet Letter* gives in the preface, entitled "The Custom-House," of finding a scarlet letter is as fictional as the story that follows. Hawthorne never found such a letter. (5) The story is primarily about adultery. It isn't. The word adultery does not even appear in the book. The adultery is a past event when the story begins. The focus is on the consequences of that past event. No adulterous passions or experiences are portrayed in the book. The story is not about adultery but about concealment of sin and the guilt it produces. It is also about consciousness of sin and guilt.

5. The main character is sometimes the one who undergoes the greatest change in a story. Who changes most? Who changes least? Does this fit with your thoughts of the main character?
6. Watch the alternate ending of *The Scarlet Letter* from the 1995 terrible, terrible movie. Discuss how the character of Hester different from the Hester we know?

## The Scarlet Letter Character Passages

You will be assigned one of the characters in which to collect 8-10 passages. These passages should be passages, not mere phrases or sentences. These should be powerhouse passages that give us insight into the character in light of the novel as a whole.

**Your Group:    Hester    Pearl    Arthur    Roger    the A    townspeople**

Other students in your same group:

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See examples:

### Hester

“The young woman was tall, with a figure of perfect elegance, on a large scale. She had dark and abundant hair, so glossy that it threw off the sunshine with a gleam, and a face which, besides being beautiful from regularity of feature and richness of complexion, had the impressiveness belonging to a marked brow and deep black eyes. She was lady-like, too, after the manner of the feminine gentility of those days; characterized by a certain state and dignity, rather than by the delicate, evanescent, and indescribable grace, which is now recognized as its indication. And never had Hester Prynne appeared more lady-like, in the antique interpretation of the term, than as she issued from the prison” (55).

“Hester Prynne, therefore, did not flee. On the outskirts of the town, within the verge of the peninsula, but not in close vicinity to any other habitation, there was a small thatched cottage. It had been built by an earlier settler, and abandoned, because the soil about it was too sterile for cultivation, while its comparative remoteness put it out of the sphere of that social activity which already marked the habits of the emigrants. It stood on the shore, looking across a basin of the sea at the forest-covered hills, towards the west. A clump of scrubby trees, such as alone grew on the peninsula, did not so much conceal the cottage from view, as seem to denote that here was some object which would fain have been, or at least ought to be, concealed. In this little, lonesome dwelling, with some slender means that she possessed, and by the license of the magistrates, who still kept an inquisitorial watch over her, Hester established herself, with her infant child” (84).

### Arthur Dimmesdale

“The directness of this appeal drew the eyes of the whole crowd upon the Reverend Mr. Dimmesdale; young clergyman, who had come from one of the great English universities, bringing all the learning of the age into our wild forest-land. His eloquence and religious fervor had already given the earnest of high eminence in his profession. He was a person of very striking aspect, with a white, lofty, and impending brow, large, brown, melancholy eyes, and a mouth which, unless when he forcibly compressed it, was apt to be tremulous, expressing both nervous sensibility and a vast power of self-restraint. Notwithstanding his high native gifts and scholar-like attainments, there was an air about this young minister,—an apprehensive, a startled, a half-frightened look,—as of a being who felt himself quite astray and at a loss in the pathway of human existence, and could only be at ease in some seclusion of his own. Therefore, so far as his duties would permit, he trode in the shadowy by-paths, and thus kept himself simple and childlike; coming forth, when occasion was, with a freshness, and fragrance, and dewy purity of thought, which, as many people said, affected them like the speech of an angel” (68-69).

“At this wild and singular appeal, which indicated that Hester Prynne’s situation had provoked her to little less than madness, the young minister at once came forward, pale, and holding his hand over his heart, as was his custom whenever his peculiarly nervous temperament was thrown into agitation. He looked now more careworn and emaciated than as we described him at the scene of Hester’s public ignominy; and whether it were his failing health, or whatever the cause might be, his large dark eyes had a world of pain in their troubled and melancholy depth” (117).

### **Pearl**

“WE have as yet hardly spoken of the infant; that little creature, whose innocent life had sprung, by the inscrutable decree of Providence, a lovely and immortal flower, out of the rank luxuriance of a guilty passion. How strange it seemed to the sad woman, as she watched the growth, and the beauty that became every day more brilliant, and the intelligence that threw its quivering sunshine over the tiny features of this child! Her Pearl!—For so had Hester called her; not as a name expressive of her aspect, which had nothing of the calm, white, unimpassioned lustre that would be indicated by the comparison. But she named the infant “Pearl,” as being of great price,—purchased with all she had,—her mother’s only treasure! How strange, indeed! Man had marked this woman’s sin by a scarlet letter, which had such potent and disastrous efficacy that no human sympathy could reach her, save it were sinful like herself. God, as a direct consequence of the sin which man thus punished, had given her a lovely child, whose place was on that same dishonored bosom, to connect her parent for ever with the race and descent of mortals, and to be finally a blessed soul in heaven! Yet these thoughts affected Hester Prynne less with hope than apprehension. She knew that her deed had been evil; she could have no faith, therefore, that its result would be for good. Day after day, she looked fearfully into the child’s expanding nature; ever dreading to detect some dark and wild peculiarity, that should correspond with the guiltiness to which she owed her being” (92-93).

“It was the scarlet letter in another form; the scarlet letter endowed with life! The mother herself—as if the red ignominy were so deeply scorched into her brain, that all her conceptions assumed its form—had carefully wrought out the similitude; lavishing many hours of morbid ingenuity, to create an analogy between the object of her affection, and the emblem of her guilt and torture. But, in truth, Pearl was the one, as well as the other; and only in consequence of that identity had Hester contrived so perfectly to represent the scarlet letter in her appearance” (105).

### **Roger Chillingworth**

“He was small in stature, with a furrowed visage, which, as yet, could hardly be termed aged. There was a remarkable intelligence in his features, as of a person who had so cultivated his mental part that it could not fail to mould the physical to itself, and become manifest by unmistakable tokens. Although, by a seemingly careless arrangement of his heterogeneous garb, he had endeavoured to conceal or abate the peculiarity, it was sufficiently evident to Hester Prynne, that one of this man’s shoulders rose higher than the other. Again, at the first instant of perceiving that thin visage, and the slight deformity of the figure, she pressed her infant to her bosom, with so convulsive a force that the poor babe uttered another cry of pain. But the mother did not seem to hear it” (62)