

11th Grade Summer Reading Assignment
The Scarlet Letter by: Nathaniel Hawthorne
American Literature Honors
Mr. Mike Moore

Introduction: I am excited about junior English. I think that you are going to really enjoy our study of American Literature during the 2010-2011 school year. This summer, you will be reading *The Scarlet Letter* by: Nathaniel Hawthorne.

Summer Reading Assignment Directions:

1. For Part One of your summer reading assignment, you will obtain a copy of *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne from a local book store, the internet (I recommend Amazon, Barnes and Noble, or any other site where you can purchase a cheap, used copy of the novel. Read it, except for the introduction, and complete the required assignments.
2. Answer all questions for *The Scarlet Letter*. The questions and rubric are attached. Please familiarize yourself with the scoring rubric before you begin to answer the questions.
3. Bring your assignment to class on the first day of school (which will actually be the second or third day of school, depending on when you have my class). A letter grade will be deducted for each day that the work is late. In theory, everyone begins with an "A". However, if you choose to procrastinate and put off your work until the day before it is due, then obviously you will receive a minimal grade for a minimal effort.

Disclaimer: You are free to use any number of printed notes for the novel such as Spark Notes, Cliffs Notes, and random websites you deem as favorites, as supplements to your reading. I stress the term supplements! I will warn you that if you **DEPEND** on such items other than your own reading notes then you will not do well in American Literature Honors, period!

Reading Assignment for *The Scarlet Letter*:

Directions: All questions should be answered in complete sentences. Answers will be graded using the scoring rubric; therefore, please carefully review the rubric before beginning the assignment. Note that I am not interested in personal opinion therefore you may not, under any circumstance, utilize personal pronouns in your answers. If you choose to do so, or by some accident "slip" a personal pronoun in your writing by "accident" a grade of 0% will be received for your assignment.

1. Describe each of the main characters in the novel. Include their physical, emotional, and spiritual characteristics.
2. Describe the **conflict** represented in the novel. Include the **climax**, or turning point, of the story in your description.

3. Thoroughly discuss the resolution of the conflict.
4. Identify and explain the principles of “original sin”, “predestination”, and “sin/punishment/redemption” found within the novel. Analyze how each of the preceding principles applies to the four major characters.

Honor’s English Writing Assignment for *The Scarlet Letter*:

1. After reading the novel, determine what you believe to be the author’s main idea. Sometimes, the main idea is not clearly stated and must be inferred. Ask yourself these questions: “What is this story about?” “What is the author trying to say or what point is he/she trying to make?”
2. Once you determine what you believe to be the author’s main idea of the novel, write it in a sentence. This will be your **thesis statement**.
3. Once you have determined your thesis statement, you must give **specific evidence from the book** to support or defend your claim. These excerpts or direct quotes from the book will serve as supporting evidence for your thesis statement and enable the reader to understand why and how you developed your thesis.
4. Create your own graphic organizer below the thesis statement. For each point, give specific quotes and examples (along with accompanying page numbers) from your book to support the thesis statement.
5. This will be considered a prewriting grade. You will write the actual literary analysis in the first weeks of the fall 2010 semester.
6. I debated and decided NOT to make you write a Book Review so that you could spend adequate time on your literary analysis prewriting. Please do a very thorough job so that I won’t regret my decision.

You are to focus on analytical writing, NOT summarizing. Again, you are prewriting/formulating ideas for an analytical essay that you will receive instructions for during the first week of the 2010-2011 school year at Southwest Career and Technical Academy. See ya in the fall!

Keep it real!

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