

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
PER: \_\_\_\_\_ DUE: \_\_\_\_\_

*The Scarlet Letter*  
Homework Packet

## *The Scarlet Letter*

Nathaniel Hawthorne (1850)



260

Hawthorne 1850

ENGLISH 11 Honors  
Unit 3 Homework Packet

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<b>POINT RANGE</b>	<b>PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>SCORE</b>
<b>25 - 23</b>	Student's responses to questions are clear, effective, and demonstrate a thorough critical understanding of the text in developing insightful answers. Answers are coherently organized, with ideas supported by apt reasons and well-chosen examples. Student's work is original, thoughtful, and complete. The work is generally free from errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics; writing style is effective and fluent, marked by syntactic variety and a clear command of language.	
<b>22 - 20</b>	Student's responses to questions are clear and demonstrate a critical understanding of the text in developing insightful answers. Answers are well organized, with ideas supported by apt reasons and well-chosen examples. Student's work is thoughtful and complete. The work may have a few errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics; writing style is effective, marked by some variety and facility in the use of language.	
<b>19 - 17</b>	Student's responses generally address the topic, but may slight some aspects of the task; responses demonstrate a generally accurate understanding of the text in developing plausible answers. Answers are adequately organized, with ideas generally supported by reasons and examples. Student's work is thoughtful and complete. The work may have a few errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics; writing style is effective, marked by some variety and facility in the use of language.	
<b>16 - 0</b>	Responses are comprised largely of superficial analysis, tending to discuss the obvious, showing a lack of imagination or insight. Answers generally lack coherence and often fail to use sufficient or accurate evidence or reasoning to prove an argument. The work in general is lackluster, sloppy, carelessly composed, and obviously was denied the serious and scholarly attention it was expected to receive.	

\*\*Any homework packet that is incomplete cannot receive a score higher than 15 points.

\*\*Handwriting that is illegible due to careless transcription will be regarded as incomplete. If your penmanship cannot be read, it cannot be graded.

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Vocabulary

1. cabalistic:
2. dauntless:
3. despot:
4. erudite:
5. imbue:
6. imperious:
7. infirmity:
8. paramour:
9. potentate:
10. sepulcher:
11. somnambulism:
12. somniferous:
13. stigmatize:
14. trammel:
15. utopia:

“The Customs House:

16. What exactly is a Customs House?



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### Chapter 1

22. In Chapter 1, three symbols emerge: the prison, the cemetery, and the rosebush. What do you believe is the relationship between these symbols?

### Chapter 2

23. What are the townswomen's thoughts on the magistrates' judgment of Hester? What role does the "young wife" play in this moment? How does Hawthorne manipulate the reader's reactions to the townswomen?

24. After reading Chapter 2, write a diary entry as Hester in which she describes how she feels about what she has experienced.

### Chapter 5

25. In the first paragraph, the narrator explains the consequences of Hester's actions. What are these consequences? Do you agree with the narrator's evaluation?

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Chapters 6 and 7

26. Discuss the importance of Hester naming her child “Pearl.” How do Hester’s actions toward her daughter reflect that name? On the other hand, what indicates that Pearl’s character, mannerisms, and thoughts appear contrary to her naming?

Chapter 9

27. Look up all definitions for the word *leech* in the dictionary. How are the denotations of this term applicable to Roger Chillingworth and his relationship with Hester Prynne and Arthur Dimmesdale?

Chapter 11

28. In what ways does Chillingworth “torture” the minister? What acts of self-punishment does Dimmesdale undertake? Which is most debilitating for the minister?

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Chapter 12

29. In this chapter, the narrator writes that Dimmesdale has a “heaven-defying guilt and repentance.” What does the narrator mean by this? What is Dimmesdale’s internal conflict?

Chapter 13

30. List three quotes from this chapter that explore the issue of womanhood and femininity, interpret what the narrator means by each statement, and explain how these comments contribute to the greater conflict or problem at the heart of this story. Make sure you provide TLQs for each quote and analysis with a rhetorical element that confirms your analysis (you must explain that element).

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31. Write a diary entry as Hester in which she assesses the seven years since Pearl's birth. What does she see as her triumphs and failures?



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Chapter 14

32. Draw a picture of Roger Chillingworth as you envision him. Around the image write at least six words (abstract nouns) that indicate what most consumes him. Provide at least four quotes you feel best define him

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Chapter 15

33. Why do you believe Hester lies to Pearl about the meaning behind the Scarlet Letter?

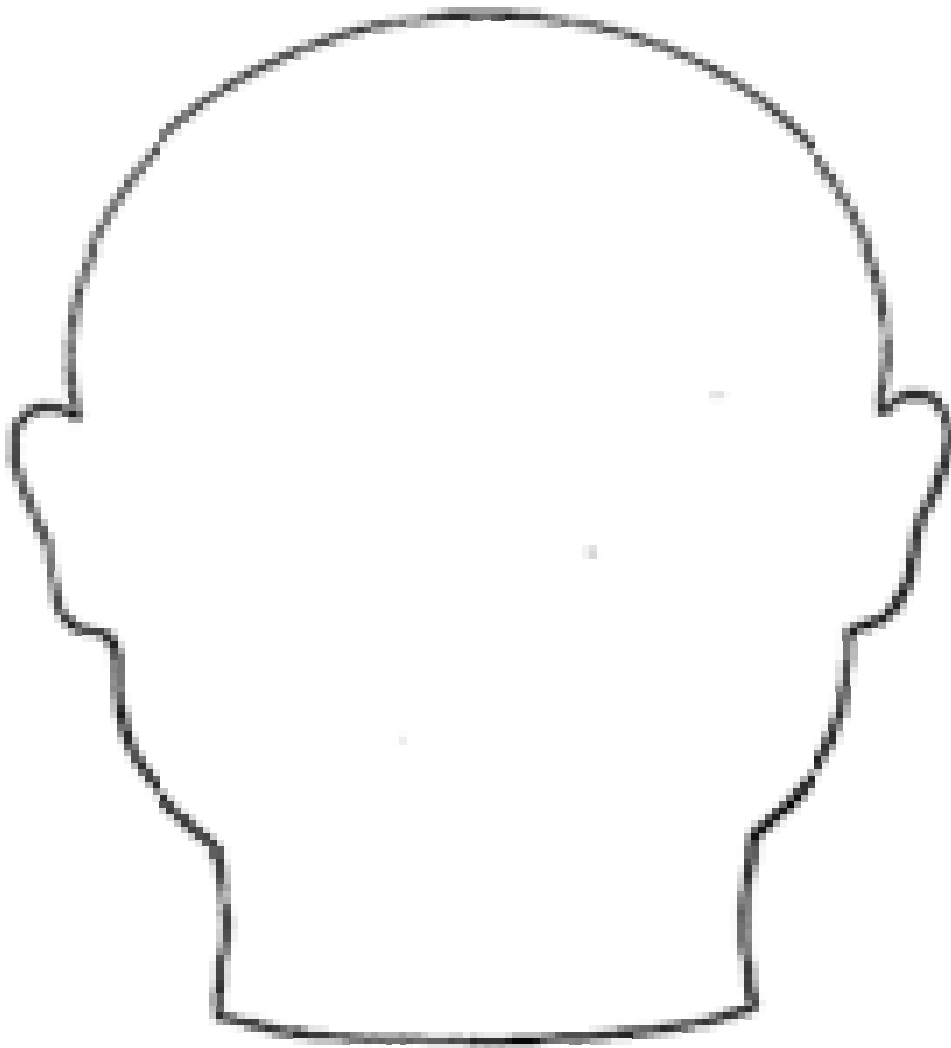
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Chapter 16

34. Complete an “open mind” for Pearl. (An open mind is a portrait of the character in which you enter key words, phrases and images that most define that character). What musings most characterize her? (Please use the outline below)

## Open Mind



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Chapters 17 & 18

35. What evidence in these chapters supports the idea that Dimmesdale is a weak man? What evidence shows Hester's strength?

Chapter 19

36. What is Pearl's response when she sees her mother without the Scarlet Letter? Why do you think she acts this way?

Chapter 20 and 21

37. Create a chart which lists the characteristics of Arthur before his decision to leave Boston and after he decides to flee with Hester.

Old Dimmesdale	New Dimmesdale

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Chapters 22 & 23

38. When Dimmesdale calls upon Hester and Pearl to join him upon the scaffold, why do you think Chillingworth tries to stop him? What does Arthur finally confess to the crowd?

39. Find a quote from Chillingworth that describes how he is “defeated” by Dimmesdale. What is the thematic argument here?

Chapter 24

40. What happens to each of the main characters (Hester, Arthur, Roger, Pearl) after the final scaffold scene? What final touch of symbolism completes the novel?

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41. How does the ending of the novel pay off on Hawthorne's claim in Chapter 1 that this is a tale of human frailty and sorrow?

42. What do you believe is Hawthorne's message about the human condition? How does the frame story of the Custom House enrich or enlighten this understanding?