

# Response paper

Literature



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Response Paper Introduction The short story chronicles the Calvinist/Puritan norms that human beings exist in a of wickedness apart from those born in a state of grace. Considering this, the prevalent theme is that human existence is full of secret depravity. This is manifested in the protagonist's (Goodman Brown) journey in the narrative, which is symbolic of a person's real life struggle. The theme illustrates that one loses his virtue and good moral due to the extreme exposure to self-indulgence, distortion and other evil aspects of humanity (Kirszner & Mandell, 2012). I think the story explores the evil things that people engage in to gain wealth and power in the society. This is comprised of the respected members of the society as well as the ordinary citizens as indicated in the story when Goodman Brown takes a stroll in the forest to discover weird happenings. For instance, Brown discovers that the Governor, together with his Wife, Faith, are an evil group associates that meet daily in the middle of the forest.

If the story was to be written in Faith's point of view, then it could not expose the human evil deeds. It is apparent that the people pretend to be good and decent members of the society, but engages in wicked things at night (Kirszner & Mandell, 2012). Faith could have glorified the wicked habits since she is one of the members who do not care about the repercussions of such habits. For instance, people believe that evil is the nature of mankind and no one can survive without committing sins or crimes. In this regard, Faith's perspective would explain the benefits of evils in the society, which lead to corruption and the accumulation of wealth through greediness (Kirszner & Mandell, 2012).

Symbols are the use of items to represent ideas or qualities that contain similar or different meanings of the actual things. Symbolisms are also <https://assignbuster.com/response-paper-response-essay-samples-7/>

marked in the narrative through the use of the devil's staff and a pink ribbon possessed by Faith. The devil's staff is drawn from the biblical character of the serpent as a wicked demon. The serpent in the Holy Book enticed Eve to consume the prohibited fruit, which also happens when the devil lures Brown to join their evil group (Kirszner & Mandell, 2012). In the Bible, the serpent encouraged Eve to sin and wickedness through curiosity. The symbolic aspect of the staff also contributed to Faith's downfall that derived her innocence to join the wicked group at the back of her husband. Another symbol is the pink ribbon that signifies purity (Kirszner & Mandell, 2012). This is because the author uses it to show innocence and fun that people normally associate the color to represent.

The author uses a sad tone and a unique language in order to make the audience relate to the happenings in the story. For instance, the author describes the clergy and the governor as honorable members since that shows the respect and status possessed by them in the society. Another specific word used by the authors is Goodman, which is a representation of the only moral person in the entire community (Kirszner & Mandell, 2012). The other members are wicked and perform immoral things at night when others are not aware by pretending to be the most decent personalities in the society. Goodman shows that the human nature of wickedness is prevalent among all people from the ordinary members of the most honorable individuals (Kirszner & Mandell, 2012).

#### Reference

Kirszner, L. G., & Mandell, S. R. (2012). *Portable literature: Reading, reacting, writing*.

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