

Nathaniel hawthornes works

Literature



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work (Literature Hawthorne's Plots: Discuss the relation of prefaces and expository introductions to Hawthorne's plots. Why

do you think he uses this writing style

In Fanshawe, Hawthorne used the long expository introduction to introduce the setting

of the novel. He apologized for the physical, moral, ethnics and various aspects of

'Harley College'. His Romantic work rebelled against the formalism of his nineteenth

century. He challenged the status quo when he questioned the reputation of Harley

College. He did make fun of everything and everybody, but with justification, since he

explained his rationale behind each of his logic; 'Few of them, perhaps, have been deep

and finished scholars; but the College has supplied - what the emergencies of the country

demanding - a set of men more useful in its present state, and whose deficiency in

theoretical knowledge has not been found to imply a want of practical ability.'

(Hawthorne 3).

The end.

Word count: 124 words.

2) Hawthorne Challenging Popular Assumptions:

Hawthorne's writing seems to challenge many assumptions from his time period:

gender roles, parent-child relationships, social and scientific progress, and

trustworthiness of believing what you see. Discuss at least one of these assumptions

in relation to at least one of Hawthorne's works.

Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*, published in 1850, challenged the status quo on the

woman's sexual freedom, right of choice, single motherhood, female gender role conflict

and woman's rights in society. The female protagonist, Hester Prynne, had braved

criticism by giving birth to a child out of wedlock. Her Puritan England governor

sentenced her to a lifetime of shame by making it mandatory for her to wear the scarlet

letter A, sewn onto all her clothing, as the mark of the adulteress. Hester is a heroine who

echoed Hawthorne's sentiment of disregarding the society. One predominant theme is on

sin. Hester lived her life in repentance for her former sins and she changed for the better

in her personal development.

The end.

Word count: 119.

3) Short Stories in the 1800s:

The short story became an important form between 1830 and 1860 as a result of Poe

and Hawthorne. Discuss the characteristics of the short story. Compare Poe's and

Hawthorne's approaches to the short story.

A short story is a short, fictional, narrative prose. It is simpler than a novel, has a single

plot, a single setting, a small limited number of characters and it spans over a short period of time.

Edgar Allan Poe wrote horror, mystery, detective and crime short stories. He, like

Hawthorne, also wrote long expository introductions. Poe wrote his

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philosophies

analyzing the human conditions in a serious tone. Hawthorne preferred writing funny and

witty criticisms on social conventions. Poe's short stories were famous for his Gothic

sub-genre in Romantic literature. He, in contrast to Hawthorne, preferred using science to

explain his rationales in his sort stories. Poe emphasized on a single theme on a human

trait for each story while Hawthorne had several themes in each short story.

The end.

Word count: 127.

4) Understanding Hawthorne:

In what ways do you find "Hawthorne and Moses" helpful for understanding

Hawthorne's fiction In what ways do you find it helpful to illuminating

Melville's own

artistic practices

Mosses from an Old Manse is a collection of Hawthorne's short stories.

Hawthorne

showed his skill in writing allegories of even the horror genre which his critic,

Edgar

Allan Poe specialized in. This was Hawthorne's usual method of criticizing his

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contemporaries and society. Hawthorne had been accused of plagiarism because of his

allegories which used others' tales. Herman Melville wrote a review on this book and

named it, 'Hawthorne and His Mosses.' He praised Hawthorne's works. Hawthorne was

Melville's source of inspiration for his famous novel, *Moby-Dick*, which he dedicated to

Hawthorne. Melville, like Hawthorne, also wrote short stories and poems with criticisms

on his society, gender sexuality and inequalities.

The end.

Word count: 110 words.

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Nathaniel

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