

Scarlet letter symbolism analysis essay



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Hawthorne portrays his strong dislike for the Puritan beliefs throughout his novel *The Scarlet Letter*.

Set In Salem, Massachusetts, Hawthorne explains the story of a young woman living In sin. He points out the flaws In the “ perfect” Puritan society. Hawthorne utilizes literary techniques symbolism and hypocrisy so readers understand the corruption within society. Hawthorne is not subtle with his portrayal of hypocrisy. If thou feeblest it to be for thy soul’s peace, and that thy earthly punishment will thereby be made more effectual to salvation, I charge thee to speak out the name of thy fellow-sinner and fellow sufferer”(56).

In chapter 3, Timescale is too weak to confess his sin. Timescale preaches on multiple occasions how terrible sin is. When in actuality, he is the worse sinner of them all. Timescale makes partial confessions, as the novel progresses. For example, at night he stands on the scaffold and talks about his sin. Nobody hears him nor pays attention when they see him.

Additionally, Timescale always confesses through his vigils. He tells the town, do not hold your sin In, It eats way at you. Yet, he does furthering his hypocrisy.

Timescale Is selfish. He allows Hester to take all the blame for their sin. He uses private punishment to make himself feel better. However, if he confessed he would feel no burden. Timescale represents how even the most prestige people are corrupt and have flaws. The forest is a powerful symbol in *The Scarlet Letter*. It is secluded from the Puritan society. The author states, “ So strangely did they meet in the dim wood that it was like the first

encounter in the world beyond the grave of two spirits who had en intimately connected in Clamberer 2 their former 62).

Hester and Timescale meet in the forest. They come here to escape society and their Judging ways. The forest keeps all their secrets, secret. It does not judge. Hester and Timescale can be their true selves while here. They act Like a family. The forest Is a relief and a break from the Puritan's harsh values.

Through the tangled branches, lies all the Puritan secrets, which have yet to be exposed. Roger Clownishness's name directly relates to his personality and character throughout the novel. Chlorinating is a cold person. For example, Hawthorne uses the words leech, devil, and shadow to describe Chlorinating.

He gives the other characters chills, hence his name. Nathaniel Hawthorne writes, " Reverend Arthur Timescale was haunted by Satan himself, or Satan's emissary, in the guise of old Roger Clownishness's interaction with other characters was never pleasant or peaceful. Chlorinating is sinister, evil, corrupt and chilling despite his position as the town's physician. Chlorinating uses his skill, title, and ability to toy tit Damselfly's mind and make him weaker. The symbolism In Clownishness's name shows the readers how vengeful and evil he Is. He has no mercy. Chlorinating for readers to understand his views. He exposes the hypocrisy of the Puritans by making Timescale the sinner.

Hawthorne gives Chillingworth his name so readers get an eerie, fearful vibe of him. Hawthorne teaches a lesson. The correct way to approach sin is head on.

Hiding the truth can affect you physically, spiritually, and mentally as it did Timescale in the novel.