

Diversity "ethan
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**ASSIGN
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Diversity of Hawthorne's Writings in " Young Goodman Brown", " Ethan Brand", and " The Birthmark" Diversity of Hawthorne's Writings in " Young Goodman Brown", " Ethan Brand", and " The Birthmark" .

Michael Duncan ENG. 111 T/TH 9: 30 am" ..

. it is no delusion. There is an Unpardonable Sin!" , a quote by Ethan Brand that is at the root of many stories by Nathaniel Hawthorne. Nathaniel Hawthorne's gloomy, dark style of writing is an emphasis on his theme of evil at society's heart. Writing about what he knew Hawthorne described the puritan society in different periods of time and defined different characters but all connected through his style. The stories that exemplify the diversity of Hawthorne's writing are " Young Goodman Brown" , " Ethan Brand" , and " The Birthmark" . Having read these stories it is possible to become engrossed in the darkness that is portrayed and none is better than " Young Goodman Brown" .

Young Goodman Brown, the character, is first introduced to us in the clearing of Salem village and we learn that he has faith in the goodness of the village and Faith for his companion as well. The people that we meet in Salem village in the first few paragraphs are just Goodman and Faith. These two characters are very important to understand for their surface characters or illusionary characters. It is soon learned that Goodman Brown is not such a good man and later Faith shows us just as much false character. Goodman and Faith are not the only characters that are not all they seem to be. We come to meet more characters in the short story that are superficial as is the village itself. Goodman Brown leaves the bright, warm, goodness of his

village to make a journey in the woods to meet a stranger. A good place to meet a stranger would be these surrounding woods of Salem for it is here that described by Nathaniel Hawthorne that " He had taken a dreary road, darkened by all the gloomiest trees of the forest, which barely stood aside to let the narrow path creep through, and closed immediately behind.

" and like the scheming mind of an evil person the dark woods leads one down the wrong pathway. The woods are not an illusion as was the village, the woods are exactly what they seem to be therefore the characters met inside the woods will be as shady as the woods themselves. Leading Goodman Brown to his despair is the first character, the stranger. The stranger is much older than the Goodman but the two converse easily and both understand each other even though they talk around Goodman's evil purpose. It is this easy conversation that Hawthorne writes to us about Goodman's evil. Though Goodman Brown believes himself to be alone in his journey down the trail the stranger tells him that it is a beaten path and has been taken even by his father.

So does the world that has been built up around Goodman Brown begin to crumble and with the first blow he is set up for more devastation into the world of the devil. " Wickedness or not, I have a very general acquaintance here in New England." The devilish stranger explains how even the noblest of people have an evil in their character and those who hide are those who are trusted the most.

Many of these characters that the stranger knows are companions of the Goodman and these are Goody Cloyce, the Deacon, the other patriots of

Salem, and even his own wife Faith who he sees worshipping in the woods behind a hazy fire. By telling the story of a devil worshipping town in Salem, which is already known for its witch scare, Hawthorne tries to convey his beliefs that in all of humanity there can and is evil. For those who believe themselves to be good are not and those who do not are." "Ethan Brand" is a different sort of story that will take place on the side of a mountain where a man and his son and one particular lime kiln stoker enter the scene. Visualized to us by Hawthorne Bartram and his son are sitting by the kiln, Bartram the steady worker burns limestone and talks to his son about Ethan Brand.

Ethan Brand is a mystery and is representative of the people who are not understood or who may be the outcasts of society. Ethan Brand was a mystery to his townspeople who by leaving the daily routine of life and discontinuing