

The scarlet letter – analysis of nature vs city essay

Literature



Hawthorn's *The Scarlet Letter* depicts the contrast between forest and society. Like other authors in the American Romantic period, Hawthorne pays close attention to nature and its importance.

The loquacious brook mumbles stones from the past, and Pearl plays in the sun. Although many people overlook it, the forest is a place of sanctity. While dangerous and frightening to the townspeople, it is more compassionate than civilization. Hawthorne illustrates this juxtaposition through the absence of evil, characters' meetings in the forest, and contradictions with the Puritan society.

Unlike the town, the forest contains no trace of malice. When Pearl tells her mother, "The sunshine does not love you. It runs away and hides itself, because it is afraid of something in your bosom", she explains that nature responds to morality (165). The forest can discern between innocence and sin. It is untamed and wild. When rain comes, the water "transmutes the yellow fallen leaves to gold", signifying the raw beauty that dwells in the forest (183). The rose bush beside the jail resembles good among evil: the existence itself symbolizes life and survival in the town's gloomy weather. Even though no evil resides in the forest, significant meetings between sinners take place among the trees.

For instance, Hester and Dimmesdale speak for the first time since they "formed an electric chain" on the scaffold in chapter twelve (139). In the forest, they reevaluate their sins and determine that the true villain is Roger Chillingworth. Moreover, the forest allows people to speak the truth as well as forgive one another. When Hester asks Dimmesdale, "Is there not shade

enough In all this boundless forest to hide thy heart from the gaze of Roger
Chlorinating she insinuates that the forest is a safe refuge (178).

Additionally, secrets cannot be told in the village: rumors and cruel
statements circulate and, in Hester case, outcast the victim. Furthermore,
the forest's sympathy prevails over the society discrimination. Nature's
government is the complete opposite of superficial Puritan law. Rather than
treating their residents fairly and equally, the Puritans are intolerable of
anyone who does not agree with their morals.

The forest is the embodiment of freedom. While the townspeople wear dark,
“ sad-colored garments, and gray, steeple crowned hats”, the forest is
colorful and bright (45). Consequently, the Puritans' demeanor is sad and
despondent; but if Pearl is in the forest she dances and plays among the
trees. When Pearl imitates Hester by adding “ the letter ‘ A’, – but freshly
green, Instead of scarlet! He also contrasts the town (161). Hester must wear
the scarlet “ A” (given to her by the town) as punishment, but Pearl makes
her “ A” using the forest's materials on her own accord. The forest takes
what Puritans consider 1 OFF The forest is not only benevolent, but also safe.

It inhibits neither public humiliation nor shame, but the town is merciless in
its punishments and definitive in TTS expectations. The wilderness is a
meeting place and sanctity to all. Furthermore, corrupt Puritan laws simply
cannot compete with nature's empathy.