

2018-2019 American Literature Summer Reading Project

All incoming juniors are required to read *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne and complete the project listed below.

Synopsis:

Set in the harsh Puritan community of seventeenth-century Boston, this tale of an adulterous entanglement that results in an illegitimate birth reveals Nathaniel Hawthorne's concerns with the tension between the public and the private selves. Publicly disgraced and ostracized, Hester Prynne draws on her inner strength and certainty of spirit to emerge as the first true heroine of American fiction. Arthur Dimmesdale, trapped by the rules of society, stands as a classic study of a self divided. The novel may be purchased through amazon.com, at Bestseller bookstores, and other online retailers.

All students must complete the following project:

Complete the project in a composition notebook (to be used as your class notebook for the remainder of the year).

Analytic Journal - Tracing characterization, theme, symbols: For each chapter of the novel, pay particularly close attention to characterization, theme, and symbolism. For each chapter of the book you are to choose a quote that reveals something important about a character, helps develop a theme, or has some symbolic significance, making sure to include page number(s). The commentary for each passage must be at least 2 sentences long. In total you should have 24 quotes and at least 48 sentences.

During the first week of class, you will be tested on themes, symbols, & characterization found in *The Scarlet Letter*.