

THE SCARLET LETTER



Webster's Thesaurus Edition for PSAT®, SAT®, GRE®, LSAT®,
GMAT®, and AP® English Test Preparation

Nathaniel Hawthorne

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English Test Preparation

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PREFACE FROM THE EDITOR

Designed for school districts, educators, and students seeking to maximize performance on standardized tests, Webster's paperbacks take advantage of the fact that classics are frequently assigned readings in English courses. By using a running thesaurus at the bottom of each page, this edition of *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne was edited for students who are actively building their vocabularies in anticipation of taking PSAT[®], SAT[®], AP[®] (Advanced Placement[®]), GRE[®], LSAT[®], GMAT[®] or similar examinations.¹

Webster's edition of this classic is organized to expose the reader to a maximum number of synonyms and antonyms for difficult and often ambiguous English words that are encountered in other works of literature, conversation, or academic examinations. Extremely rare or idiosyncratic words and expressions are given lower priority in the notes compared to words which are "difficult, and often encountered" in examinations. Rather than supply a single synonym, many are provided for a variety of meanings, allowing readers to better grasp the ambiguity of the English language, and avoid using the notes as a pure crutch. Having the reader decipher a word's meaning within context serves to improve vocabulary retention and understanding. Each page covers words not already highlighted on previous pages. If a difficult word is not noted on a page, chances are that it has been highlighted on a previous page. A more complete thesaurus is supplied at the end of the book; Synonyms and antonyms are extracted from Webster's Online Dictionary.

Definitions of remaining terms as well as translations can be found at www.websters-online-dictionary.org. Please send suggestions to websters@icongroupbooks.com

The Editor
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EDITOR'S NOTE

Nathaniel Hawthorne was already a man of forty-six, and a tale writer of some twenty-four years' standing, when "The Scarlet Letter" appeared. He was born at Salem, Mass., on July 4th, 1804, son of a sea-captain. He led there a shy and rather sombre life; of few artistic encouragements, yet not wholly **uncongenial**, his moody, intensely **meditative** temperament being considered. Its colours and shadows are **marvelously** reflected in his "Twice-Told Tales" and other short **stories**, the product of his first literary period. Even his college days at Bowdoin did not quite break through his acquired and inherited reserve; but beneath it all, his faculty of **divining** men and women was exercised with almost **uncanny prescience** and **subtlety**. "The Scarlet Letter," which explains as much of this unique imaginative art, as is to be gathered from reading his highest single achievement, yet needs to be ranged with his other writings, early and late, to have its last effect. In the year that saw it published, he began "The House of the Seven Gables," a later romance or prose-tragedy of the Puritan-American community as he had himself known it - defrauded of art and the joy of life, "starving for symbols" as Emerson has it. Nathaniel Hawthorne died at Plymouth, New Hampshire, on May 18th, 1864.

The following is the table of his romances, stories, and other works:

Thesaurus

divining: (*adj*) oracular; (*n*) dowsing.
marvelously: (*adj, adv*) astonishingly, amazingly, strangely; (*adv*) superbly, magnificently, wondrously, terrifically, fantastically, marvellously, excellently, miraculously. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) abysmally, terribly, unremarkably, incompetently, mildly, poorly.
meditative: (*adj, v*) thoughtful, pensive; (*adj*) wistful, reflective, broody, museful, ruminative,

musing, brooding; (*v*) philosophical, sedate.
prescience: (*n*) forecast, precognition, anticipation, prevision, foreknowledge, forethought, vision, presentiment, prediction, hunch, insight.
stories: (*n*) tale.
subtlety: (*n*) refinement, elegance, nuance, delicacy, craft, finesse, nicety, niceness, penetration, polish, cunning. ANTONYMS: (*n*)

tactlessness, coarseness, heaviness, vulgarity.
uncanny: (*adj*) weird, eerie, strange, ghostly, unearthly, unnatural, eldritch, mysterious, odd, frightful, hideous. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) normal, common, ordinary.
uncongenial: (*adj*) unfriendly, hostile, incongenial, cold, unfit, unsuited, contrastive, chilly, cool, unsociable, distant. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) friendly, hospitable.

Fanshawe, published **anonymously**, 1826; Twice-Told Tales, 1st Series, 1837; 2nd Series, 1842; Grandfather's Chair, a history for youth, 1845: Famous Old People (Grandfather's Chair), 1841 Liberty Tree: with the last words of Grandfather's Chair, 1842; Biographical Stories for Children, 1842; Mosses from an Old Manse, 1846; The Scarlet Letter, 1850; The House of the Seven Gables, 1851: True Stories from History and **Biography** (the whole History of Grandfather's Chair), 1851 A Wonder Book for Girls and Boys, 1851; The Snow Image and other Tales, 1851: The Blithedale Romance, 1852; Life of Franklin Pierce, 1852; Tanglewood Tales (2nd Series of the Wonder Book), 1853; A Rill from the Town-Pump, with **remarks**, by Telba, 1857; The Marble Faun; or, The Romance of Monte Beni (4 EDITOR'S NOTE) (published in England under the title of "Transformation"), 1860, Our Old Home, 1863; Dolliver Romance (1st Part in "Atlantic Monthly"), 1864; in 3 Parts, 1876; Pansie, a **fragment**, Hawthorne' last literary effort, 1864; American Note-Books, 1868; English Note Books, **edited** by Sophia Hawthorne, 1870; French and Italian Note Books, 1871; Septimius Felton; or, the Elixir of Life (from the "Atlantic Monthly"), 1872; Doctor Grimshawe's Secret, with Preface and Notes by Julian Hawthorne, 1882.

Tales of the White Hills, Legends of New England, Legends of the Province House, 1877, contain tales which had already been **printed** in book form in "Twice-Told Tales" and the "Mosses" "Sketched and Studies," 1883.

Hawthorne's contributions to magazines were **numerous**, and most of his tales appeared first in periodicals, **chiefly** in "The Token," 1831-1838, "New England Magazine," 1834,1835; "Knickerbocker," 1837-1839; "Democratic Review," 1838-1846; "Atlantic Monthly," 1860-1872 (scenes from the Dolliver Romance, Septimius Felton, and passages from Hawthorne's Note-Books).

Works: in 24 volumes, 1879; in 12 volumes, with **introductory** notes by Lathrop, Riverside Edition, 1883.

Biography, etc. ; A. H. Japp (pseud. H. A. Page), Memoir of N. Hawthorne, 1872; J. T. Field's "Yesterdays with Authors," 1873 G. P. Lathrop, "A Study of Hawthorne," 1876; Henry James English Men of Letters, 1879; Julian Hawthorne, "Nathaniel Hawthorne and his wife," 1885; Moncure D. Conway, Life of

Thesaurus

anonymously: (<i>adv</i>) unknownly, unidentifiedly, unspecifiedly; (<i>adj</i> , <i>adv</i>) secretly; (<i>adj</i>) under another name, pretending to be somebody else, in disguise, disguised, undercover.	largely, primly, predominantly; (<i>adj</i> , <i>adv</i>) mainly, particularly. ANTONYM: (<i>adv</i>) partially.	(<i>adj</i> , <i>v</i>) inceptive, preliminary, prefatory.
biography: (<i>n</i>) history, life story, life, life history, memoirs, memoir, story, hagiography, animation, biographies, resume.	edited: (<i>adj</i>) shortened, abridged, emended, formatted.	numerous: (<i>adj</i>) many, frequent, abundant, multiple, multitudinous, copious, plentiful, innumerable, populous, great, much. ANTONYMS: (<i>adj</i>) rare, occasional, scarce.
chiefly: (<i>adv</i>) principally, primarily, above all, especially, headly, mostly,	fragment: (<i>n</i>) fraction, crumb, morsel, part, division, rag; (<i>n</i> , <i>v</i>) chip, scrap, splinter; (<i>v</i>) shiver, crumble. ANTONYM: (<i>n</i>) chunk.	printed: (<i>adj</i>) written, imprinted, stamped, pressed, embossed, on paper.
	introductory: (<i>adj</i>) elementary, incipient, basic, opening, first, prefatorial, preparatory, prelusive;	remarks: (<i>n</i>) commentary, explanation.

Nathaniel Hawthorne, 1891; Analytical Index of Hawthorne's Works, by E. M. O'Connor 1882.

Thesaurus		
o'connor: (n) Flannery O'Connor.		