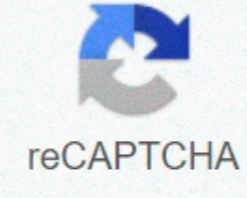




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The scarlet letter setting importance

Nathaniel Hawthorne's novel *The Scarlet Letter*. For other uses, see *Scarlet Letter* (disambiguation). The *Scarlet Letter* title page, first edition, 1850. Author: Nathaniel Hawthorne. Country: United States. Language: English. Genre: Romantic, Historical. Publisher: Ticknor, Reed & Fields. Publication date: 1850. Dewey Decimal: 813.3. *The Scarlet Letter: A Romance* is a work of historical fiction by American writer Nathaniel Hawthorne, published in 1850. Set in the Puritan Massachusetts Bay Colony from 1642 to 1649, the novel tells the story of Hester Prynne, who conceives a daughter through a relationship and then struggles to create a new life of repentance and dignity. Containing a series of religious and historical allusions, the book explores themes of legalism, sin, and guilt. *The Scarlet Letter* was one of the first books produced in series in America. [2] It was popular when it was first published [2] and is considered a classic work today. [3] He has inspired numerous film, television and theatrical adaptations. Critics have described it as a masterpiece. [4] and novelist D. H. Lawrence has called it a perfect work of the American imagination. [5] Plot In this painting, *The Scarlet Letter* by Hugues Merle, Hester Prynne and Pearl are in the foreground and Arthur Dimmesdale and Roger Chillingworth are in the background (painted by Hugues Merle, 1861). In Puritan Boston, Massachusetts, a crowd gathers to witness the punishment of Hester Prynne, a young woman who gave birth to a child of unknown kinship. She is required to wear a scarlet A on her dress at all times, even when she is around the citizens to shame her. The letter A stands for adultery, although this is never explicitly stated in the novel. [quote required] Her sentencing took her to stand on the gallows for three hours, exposed to public humiliation, and to wear scarlet A for the rest of her life. As Hester approaches the gallows, many of the women in the crowd are angry at its beauty and quiet dignity. When asked and rejoiced to name his son's father, Hester refused. As Hester looks out over the crowd, she notices a deformed little man and recognizes him as her long-lost husband, who is presumed to have been lost at sea. When her husband sees Hester's shame, she asks a man in the crowd about her and tells the story of his wife's adultery. He angrily exclaims that the child's father, the partner in the adulterated act, should also be punished and vows to find the man. He chooses a new name, Roger Chillingworth, to help him with his plan. The Reverend John Wilson and Hester's church minister, Arthur Dimmesdale, interrogate her, but she refuses to name her lover. His return to his cell, the jailer takes Chillingworth, now a doctor, to calm Hester and his son with his roots and herbs. He and Hester have an open conversation regarding their and the fact that they were both wrong. Her lover, however, is another matter and asks to know who she is; Hester refuses to disclose such information. He accepts this, stating that she will find out anyway, and forces her to hide that he is her husband. If he ever reveals it, he warns her, he will destroy the child's father. Hester accepts Chillingworth's terms, though he suspects he will regret it. After his release from prison, Hester settles into a cottage on the edge of town and earns a lean life with his embroidery, which is of extraordinary quality. He lives a quiet and gloomy life with his daughter, Pearl, and performs acts of charity for the poor. She is troubled by her daughter's unusual charm with scarlet A. Hester's escape also extends to Pearl, who has no playmates or friends except her mother. As she grows up, Pearl becomes capricious and unruly. His conduct begins rumors, and, not surprisingly, church members suggest Pearl be taken away by Hester. Hester, hearing rumors that he might lose Pearl, goes to talk to Governor Bellingham. With him are Ministers Wilson and Dimmesdale. Hester appeals to Dimmesdale in desperation, and the minister convinces the governor to let Pearl remain in Hester's care. As Dimmesdale's health began to fail,

citizens are happy to have Chillingworth, the newly arrived doctor, take lodging with their beloved minister. Being in such close contact with Dimmesdale, Chillingworth begins to suspect that the minister's illness is the result of some unconfessed guilt. He puts psychological pressure on the minister because he suspects Dimmesdale is Pearl's father. One evening, pulling aside Dimmesdale's sleeping vestment, Chillingworth sees a symbol representing his shame on the minister's pale chest. Tormented by his guilty conscience, Dimmesdale goes to the square where Hester was punished years earlier. Climbing the gallows in the middle of the night, he admits his guilt, but can't find the courage to do so publicly in daylight. Hester, shocked by Dimmesdale's deterioration, decides to get a release from her vow of silence to her husband. A few days later, Hester meets Dimmesdale in the forest and tells him about her husband and his desire for revenge. He convinces Dimmesdale to leave Boston in secret on a ship to Europe where they can start life again. Inspired by this plan, the minister seems to be gaining new energy. On Election Day, Dimmesdale delivers one of her most inspired sermons. But as the procession leaves the church, Dimmesdale climbs the gallows and confesses her sin, dying in Hester's arms. Later, most witnesses swear they saw a stigma under of a scarlet A on the chest, although some deny this claim. Chillingworth, losing his will for revenge, dies shortly afterwards and leaves Pearl a Legacy. After several years, Hester returns to his cottage and resumes wearing the scarlet letter. When she dies, she is buried near Dimmesdale's tomb, and they share a simple slate tombstone engraved with an escutcheon described as: On a field, sable, the letter A, gules (A red letter written on a black background). Main theme The main theme of The Scarlet Letter is shame and social stigma, both Hester's public humiliation and Dimmesdale's private shame and fear of exposure. In particular, their connection is never talked about, so the circumstances that led to Hester's pregnancy, and how their relationship was kept secret never become part of the plot. Elmer Kennedy-Andrews notes that Hawthorne in The Custom-house defines the context for his story and tells us about 'romance', which is his favorite generic term to describe The Scarlet Letter, as his subtitle for the book – 'A Romance' – would indicate. In this introduction, Hawthorne describes a space between materialism and dream that he calls neutral territory, somewhere between the real world and the land of fairies, where the actual and the imaginary can meet, and each one is imbued with the nature of the other. This combination of dream and realism gave the author space to explore the main themes. [6] Other themes Hester and Dimmesdale's experience recalls the story of Adam and Eve because, in both cases, sin results in expulsion and suffering. But it also translates into knowledge – in particular, knowledge of what it means to be immoral. For Hester, the Scarlet Letter is a physical manifestation of his sin and recalls his painful loneliness. He contemplates throwing it away to obtain his freedom from an oppressive society and a checkered past, as well as from the absence of God. Since society excludes it, it considers the possibility that many of the traditions supported by Puritan culture are false and are not designed to bring its happiness. As for Dimmesdale, the cheating minister, his sin gives him such intimate sympathies with the sinful brotherhood of humanity, so that his chest vibrates in unison with theirs. His eloquent and powerful sermons derive from this sense of empathy. [7] Reverend Arthur Dimmesdale's narrative is quite in line with the oldest and most fully authorized principles of Christian thought. [quote required] His Fall is a descent from apparent grace to his damnation; seems to start in purity, but ends in corruption. The subtlety is that the minister's belief is his cheating, convincing himself at every stage of his spiritual pilgrimage that he is saved. [8] The beauty of the rose bush constitutes a striking contrast to everything surrounding him; as later the beautifully embroidered scarlet A will be held partly as an invitation to find some sweet moral flower in the next tragic tale and partly as an image image the deep heart of nature (perhaps God) can look more kindly at the wandering Hester and his child than his Puritan neighbors. Throughout the work, images of nature contrast with the strong darkness of puritans and their systems. [9] Chillingworth's deformed body reflects (or symbolizes) the anger in his soul, which builds as the novel progresses, similar to the way Dimmesdale's disease reveals its inner turmoil. The outer man reflects the condition of the heart: a thought of observation inspired by the deterioration of Edgar Allan Poe, which Hawthorne much admired. Another theme is the extreme legalism of puritans and the way Hester chooses not to conform to their rules and beliefs. Hester was rejected by the villagers, although she spent her life doing what she could to help the sick and the poor. Due to social avoidance, she spent her life mostly alone and would not go to church. As a result, he retreats into his mind and thought. His thoughts begin to lengthen and go beyond what would be considered by puritans as safe. He still sees his sin, but begins to look at it differently from what the villagers have ever done. He begins to believe that a person's grave sins do not necessarily condemn them. You even go so far as to tell Dimmesdale that their sin was paid for by their daily penance and that their sin will not prevent them from reaching heaven, even if the Puritans believed that such a sin surely condemns. [doubt – discuss] [quote required] But Hester had been alienated from Puritan society, both in her physical life and in spiritual life. When Dimmesdale dies, she knows she has to move on because she can no longer conform to the severity of puritans. His thought is free from Puritan religious limits and he has established his different moral norms and beliefs. [7] The story of the publication Hester Prynne in the pillory, an illustration engraved by an 1878 edition It was long thought that Hawthorne originally designed The Scarlet Letter as a shorter novel, part of a collection called Old Time Legends, and that its publisher, James Thomas Fields, convinced him to expand the work to a complete novel. [10] This is not true: Fields persuaded Hawthorne to publish the Scarlet Letter only (along with the previously completed Custom House essay), but it had nothing to do with the length of the story. Hawthorne's wife, Sophia, later challenged Fields' claims a little inaccurately: she made the absurd boast that she was the only cause of the scarlet letter's publication! She noticed that her husband's friend Edwin Percy Whipple, a critic, approached Fields to take in its publication. The manuscript was written at Peter Edgerley House in Salem, Massachusetts, still standing as a private residence at 14 Mall Street. It was Salem's last home where the Hawthorne family lived. [13] The Letter was first published in the spring of 1850 by Ticknor & Fields, beginning Hawthorne's most profitable period. [2] When he delivered the final pages to Fields in February 1850, Hawthorne said parts of the book are heavily written, but doubted it would be popular. [14] In fact, the book was an instant best-seller, although, over the course of fourteen years, it brought its author only \$1,500. [2] Its initial publication brought widespread protest from salem natives, who did not approve of Hawthorne's depiction of them in his introduction The Custom-House. A second edition of 2,500 copies included a preface to Hawthorne dated March 30, 1850, which stated that he had decided to reprint his Introduction without changing a word... The only notable features of the sketch are its frank and genuine good mood... As for enmity, or malconcie of any kind, personal or political, he completely declines those reasons. The Scarlet Letter was also one of the first books produced in series in America. In the mid-19th century, bookbinders of home-grown literature typically made their own books and sold them in small quantities. The first mechanized print of The Scarlet Letter, 2,500 volumes, sold out in ten days,[2] and was widely read and discussed to a not very expert extent in the young country until then. Copies of the first edition are often sought after by collectors as rare books, and can recover up to about \$18,000. Critical response To its publication, critic Evert Augustus Duyckinck, a friend of Hawthorne's, said he preferred the author's stories to Washington Irving. Another friend, critic Edwin Percy Whipple, suffered from the novel's morbid intensity with dense psychological details, writing that the book is therefore suitable to become, like Hawthorne, too painfully anatomical in its exhibition of them. The English writer Mary Anne Evans wrote as George Eliot, called The Scarlet Letter, along with Henry Wadsworth 's 1855 poem The Song of Hiawatha, the two most indigenous and masterful productions of American literature. Most literary critics praised the book, but religious leaders questioned the subject of the novel. [18] Oreste Brownson complained that Hawthorne did not understand Christianity, confession, and remorse. [9] A review of the Ecclesiastical Register and church of the Church concluded that the author perpetrates bad morals. D.20 on the other hand, 20th-century writer D. H. Lawrence said there could not be a more perfect work than the American imagination of The Scarlet Letter. [5] Henry James once said of the novel: It is beautiful, admirable, extraordinary; has in the most degree that merit of which I spoke as Hawthorne's mark of the best things, an indefinite purity and lightness of conception... Often you can go back to it; supports familiarity and has the charm and mystery of great works of art. [5] Allusions the following are historical and biblical references that appear in The Scarlet Letter. Anne Hutchinson, mentioned in Chapter 1, The Prison Gate, was a religious dissent (1591–1643). In 1630 he was excommunicated by puritans and exiled from Boston, and moved to Rhode Island. Ann Hibbins, who was historically executed for witchcraft in Boston in 1656, is depicted in The Scarlet Letter as a witch trying to tempt Prynne into the practice of witchcraft. [23] Richard Bellingham, who was historically governor of Massachusetts and lieutenant governor at the time of Hibbins' execution, was described in The Scarlet Letter as Ann Hibbins' brother. Martin Luther (1483–1545) was a leader of the Protestant Reformation in Germany. Increase Mather (1639–1723), a powerful leader of the first Massachusetts Bay Colony. He was a Puritan minister involved with the government of the colony, and also with the salem witch trials. Sir Thomas Overbury and Dr Forman were the subject of an adultery scandal in 1615 in England. Dr. Forman was accused of attempting to poison his adulterous wife and lover. Overbury was a friend of the lover and was perhaps poisoned. John Winthrop (1588–1649), second governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. King's Chapel Burying Ground, mentioned in the final paragraph, exists; Elizabeth Pain's tombstone is traditionally considered an inspiration for the tomb of the protagonists. The story of King David and Bathsheba is depicted in the tapestry in Mr. Dimmesdale's room (chapter 9). (See II Samuel 11-12 for biblical history.) John Eliot (c. 1604–1690) was a Puritan missionary of the American Indians who some called the Apostle of the Indians. He is referred to as the Apostle Eliot that Dimmesdale went to visit at the beginning of Chapter 16, A Walk in the Forest. Symbols The following are symbols that are incorporated into The Scarlet Letter: The Scarlet Letter A: At the beginning of the novel Hester's letter A is a representation of his sin and adultery. However, as time went on, the meaning of the letter changed. It is now represented, for some, able. It states: The letter was the symbol of his call. Such availability was found in her, so much power to do and power to sympathize, that many people refused to interpret scarlet A with its original meaning. They said it meant Able, so strong was Hester Prynne, by the force of a woman (129). [24] Meteor: The A-shaped meteor serves as another symbol in the book. For reverend Dimmesdale, the meteor is a sign of God who is revealing his sin to everyone and makes him ride with guilt. However, others perceived the letter as a symbol for the angel. [24] The name Dimmesdale: Dimmesdale's own name also has symbolism. Its name contains the word root dim that evokes the feeling sensation weak, weak, and darkness. This represents the constant state in which Dimmesdale is located. His life has subsided since his sin, causing his light of life to fade and fade. It is a constant reminder of the sin from which his mother cannot escape. It is said that it was the scarlet letter in another form; the scarlet letter endowed in life (84). [24] Rosebush: The rose bush is mentioned twice throughout history. At first, it is first seen as nature's way of offering beauty to those who leave and enter the prison, as well as providing a glimmer of hope to those who inhabit it. The rose bush is perceived as a symbol of brightness in a story full of human pain. [24] The Scaffold: The Scaffold is mentioned three times throughout the novel. It can be seen how to separate the book at the beginning, center, and end. It symbolizes shame, the revelation of sin, and guilt for it is where Hester received his scarlet letter as punishment and where Dimmesdale experiences his revelation through the meteor. [24] Adaptations and influence Main article: The scarlet letter in popular culture The scarlet letter has inspired numerous film, television and theatrical adaptations, and plot elements have influenced several novels, musical works, and on-screen productions. In March 2015, Manga Classics Inc. he published a manga adaptation of The Scarlet Letter, was adopted by Crystal S. Chan, art by Sunneko Lee. While the manga held the traditional black-and-white artwork, it highlighted the scarlet 'A' in the text by coloring only this image on the pages. [25] See also the Badge of shame Boston novel portal in the colonial narrative of U.S. colonial history Illegitimacy in the fiction Whore of Babylon Angel and Apostle, a possible sequel or novel companion References Notes - Hawthorne, Nathaniel (1850). The scarlet letter: a romantic story (2 ed.). Boston: Ticknor, Reed and Fields. Retrieved July 22, 2017 – via Internet Archive. - a b c d and McFarland, Philip. Hawthorne to Concord. 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