

Sample Assignment
The Scarlet Letter

The Assignment

Overview

- Write a 3-page character analysis paper.
- For the analysis, focus on one of these 3 characters in the novel: Hester, Dimmesdale, or Chillingworth.

Purpose

- To draw conclusions about the character's role in the novel, his/her interactions with other characters, and the significance of his/her major scenes.
- To present these conclusions in an essay format.

In Class (Pre-writing)

- In class fill out a character analysis graphic organizer (provided by the instructor) detailing: physical characteristics, values, important moments in the text, etc. (To be checked by teacher)
- Brainstorm about what your overall opinion of this character is. Consider these questions: Is he/she good? Is he/she bad? Is he/she misunderstood? Do you sympathize with this character? Would you have changed any of the decisions he/she made throughout the novel?

Drafting

- With your graphic organizer and your brainstorming notes, consider the next questions:
 1. What is the most outstanding personality trait of this character? Why? Include evidence.
 2. As part of the analysis, discuss his/her relationship with Pearl.
 3. Do you think he/she is a good person? Why or why not? Include evidence.
 4. Individually develop 2 more points that you wish to develop about the character. (To be discussed with the teacher)
- Construct an outline that includes an overall thesis statement, at least 5 major points and, and 2 minor details for each point. (To be checked by teacher)
- Draft the essay. (To be checked by teacher and by peers)

Revision

- 1st drafts will be exchanged in groups of three. Groups will read and discuss each draft and provide constructive comments for revision.
- Revise 1st draft.
- Revisions will again be exchanged in the same groups of three. Groups will read and discuss each essay and make final comments on the progress.
- Brief, individual conferences will be held with students to discuss the progress of the paper.
- Final draft due: 00/00/00

