

## Summer Reading 2009: AP English III

**Book:** *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne (make sure you get a copy that includes “The Custom-House”)

*The Scarlet Letter* is widely considered an American classic, and deals with common themes of guilt, passion, and repentance. A copy of the novel can be obtained from a variety of major booksellers. You should obtain your own copy so that you can make critical notes in the novel. Copies are available for any student who would like to borrow rather than buy. Hawthorne wrote during the 19<sup>th</sup> century and was a part of a movement known as Dark Romanticism. You may need to research this in order to understand his writing style – if you do not remember from earlier English classes.

### Assignment:

- Read *The Scarlet Letter*
- Take notes and annotate your novel in a format of your choosing
  - Direct notes in the book
  - Cornell Notes
  - Dialectical Journal
  - Post-its
  - Other form of your choosing
- As you read and annotate, focus on the following:
  - What is Hawthorne’s purpose in “The Custom House”?
  - How does Hawthorne use setting as a means to advance his theme?
  - How does Hawthorne use character as a means to advance his theme?
  - What is Hawthorne’s position regarding guilt, passion, and repentance in Puritan times?
  - How does Hawthorne use language to develop his ideas?
- You need to have the reading completed by the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of class. It is possible that you may have AP English in the spring. You will find that if this is the case, you should review the novel and materials before classes begin in the spring.
- We will discuss the novel the first few days of class.
- In addition, you will write an essay the first week of school in which you argue to what extent we continue to “mark” those who sin in modern America. You might find it helpful to consider how you would respond to this idea.

As well as read *The Scarlet Letter*, there are a few additional things you can do to help you prepare for AP English III. These are **by no means required**, but each of them will help you be successful next year.

- Read newspapers, magazines, and/or online news. We spend a lot of time discussing current events, and your ability to be up to date will help you in both our class discussions and in your writing.
- Read for enjoyment. It doesn’t matter what you read, just read. There is a proven link between reading and writing. Plus, it will give you something to do while you are by the pool or avoiding the oppressive heat.
- Relax. Rest. Be young.

Enjoy your summer, and we look forward to working with you next year.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us over the summer.

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