The Scarlet Letter Test Review – Multiple Choice

- 50 questions – scantron.
- Worth 50% of your final test grade (The essay portion is the other half)
- Basically, there are no magic tricks I can give you – this is truly a “did you read or not” type assessment. However, there are a few things you can think about ahead of time that may help you out...
  - There are a couple of close-reading sections where you are given a paragraph from the novel and asked specific, interpretive questions (simile, metaphor, etc). I’d recommend closely re-reading the first three paragraphs of Chapter 5; fourth paragraph of Chapter 10; the fourth paragraph of Chapter 18; and the sixth and seventh paragraphs of Chapter 23.
  - Do you know the setting (time and place) of the novel?
  - There are several symbolism questions. To help you out – do places stand for anything? Rose bush? Characters’ names?
  - It may help to remember when Dimmesdale lacks energy and when he has energy.
  - I’d recommend revisiting carefully Chapters 17-19. Lots of detailed questions there...
  - FYI, there are some quotes which you must match to their speakers.

The Scarlet Letter Test Review – Essay Section

The concepts listed below (or others very similar to them) may appear on the essay portion of your test. Since only some will appear, you should prepare for all topics. On the day of the essay portion of the exam, Monday, May 14th, you may use this sheet and your novel. You may not use an outline, and, after your essay exam, you will turn in your book and your pages so that others may not use them.

Be prepared with 2-3 scenes where...

- Light/sunshine are important. What do these symbolize in the novel?
- Fire/heat imagery is significant. What are the thematic implications of these images?
- Scaffold is involved (3 scenes). What are the significance of these scenes? In other words, what does the scaffold represent?
- Nature is featured. What role does nature play in the novel? Consider how authors of the Romantic period viewed nature when crafting your response.

Character-related prompts...

- Analyze how the physical aspects of Chillingworth, Dimmesdale, Hester, or Pearl in The Scarlet Letter express his/her mental, emotional, and/or moral natures. (You will NOT write about the character you discussed for the essay prep activity.)
- Dimmesdale deals with guilt more than any other character in the novel. What is Hawthorne trying to say about guilt through this character?
- What symbolic role does Chillingworth play in the novel, and what does his lifelong pursuit have to do with this?