

The Scarlet Letter: Who ARE these people anyway?!
The Character Analysis Project, Chapters 1-12

So much of Hawthorne's novel is driven by and revealed through the characters he so carefully constructs. By the time you finish chapter 12 (the first half!) of this novel, you have learned a LOT about these people! **For this in-class group project, you will be analyzing a character you have been assigned for an in-class presentation.** To prepare for this presentation, your group should **identify and review your character's "key scenes."** As you re-read these passages, **examine all of the following:**

- The character's history and background;
- The character's first appearance in the novel (When does the reader meet him or her for the first time? What is the reader's first impression of him or her?);
- What the character says, does, thinks; the way she or he reacts to his surroundings, and to other characters;
- The character's physical appearance, and the way she or he dresses;
- His/her name and the name's symbolic significance
- The way others describe the character;
- Significant actions and/or gestures associated with that character;
- The author's feelings about the character (this is important!);
- The way the character ties in to the issues we foregrounded in the photo project, such as insiders/outsiders, religion and community, gender and community, etc.
- Symbols associated with this character (light/dark, colors, forest/village, etc.)
- Vocabulary words (such as "ignominious") associated with the character.

Please WORK TOGETHER as you study all of the above; do not divide responsibilities! The goal here is to locate the character's DEFINING PERSONALITY TRAITS, as you see them, and to present these to the class. **The day of your presentations, you will draw a CHARACTER MAP of your character on the board, and PRESENT THREE IMPORTANT QUOTATIONS (and page numbers) about your character.**

A few additional notes and suggestions:

- Be sure to record your first impressions of the character, and then to chart changes in those impressions as the story unfolds;
- **USE YOUR BOOKS! Find evidence that supports your beliefs, and record these quotes and page numbers!**
- You will need to come to a group consensus in order to choose crucial traits and passages, but you may offer more than one interpretation of a character's role and importance;
- Visual aids (character drawings, posters, handouts, power points) are encouraged, but not required.
- Group presentations will occur: **Friday, October 11th ☺**
- **These presentations are worth 50 points; you will also be writing a one-page paper on a DIFFERENT character, presented by your classmates, which will be worth 50 points (more info on that to follow ☺).**

Character Project Groups (listed in the order in which they will present!):

Hester: (Assigned in class!) ☺

Dimmesdale:

Chillingworth:

Pearl: