

Name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

SCORE/GRADE:

READING QUIZ: *The Scarlet Letter*

Choose a passage from today's reading assignment and write a 3-sentence quotation interpreting that passage that explains the author's use of **allusion**. Remember, a 3-sentence quotation includes the following elements: elements:

- A "set-up sentence," which describes the situation in which the passage occurs and makes brief reference to the prompt, question, or assignment,
- A direct quotation from the story, enclosed in quotation marks and followed by author/page-style citation at the end of the sentence but before final punctuation, and
- A "follow-up" sentence, in which you explain how the quotation answers the prompt, question, or assignment.

Hawthorne's name selection for Hester's illegitimate child indulges in a biblical literary allusion from Matthew 13:45-46 regarding the kingdom of heaven:

Her Pearl!—For so had Hester called her; not as a name expressive of her aspect, which had nothing of the calm, white, unimpassioned lustre that would be indicated by the comparison. But she named the infant 'Pearl,' as being of great price—purchased with all she had—her mother's only treasure! How strange indeed! Man had marked this woman's sin by a scarlet letter, which had such potent and disastrous efficacy that no human sympathy could reach her, save it were sinful like herself. God, as a direct consequence of the sin which man thus punished, had given her a lovely child, whose place was on that same dishonored bosom, to connect her parent forever with the race and descent of mortals, and to be finally a blessed soul in heaven! (Hawthorne 91-92)

In this way, Hawthorne suggests that divine judgment mercifully places a mirror before man to show him his sinful humanity and fit him for redemption and life in the heavenly kingdom.