Name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

READING QUIZ: *The Scarlet Letter*

Choose a passage from today's reading assignment and write a 3-sentence quotation interpreting the passage that illustrates the story's main theme. Remember, a 3-sentence quotation includes the following elements:

- A "set-up sentence," which describes the situation in which the quotation 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.

The token of shame Hester Prynne wore upon her breast quickened her perception of human nature:

> Her imagination was somehow affected, and, had she been of a softer moral and intellectual fibre, would have been still more so, by the strange and solitary anguish of her life. Walking to and fro with those lonely footsteps in the world with which she was outwardly connected, it now and then appeared to Hester – if altogether fancy, it was nevertheless too potent to be resisted – she felt or fancied, then, that the scarlet letter had endowed her with a new sense. She shuddered to believe, yet could not help believing, that it gave her a sympathetic knowledge of the hidden sin in other hearts. She was terror-stricken by the revelations that were thus made. What were they? Could they be other than the insidious whispers of the bad angel, who would fain have persuaded the struggling woman, as yet only half his victim, that the outward guise of purity was but a lie, and that if truth were everywhere to be shown, a scarlet letter would blaze forth on many a bosom besides Hester Prynne's? (Hawthorne 89-90)

Not only did the scarlet letter keep Hester's sin and shame before her,

but it also made her sensitive and empathetic to its intuited likeness in her neighbors, suggesting some similar guilt lay beneath their surface acceptability.

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