

Name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

SCORE/GRADE:

READING QUIZ: *The Scarlet Letter*

Choose a passage from today's reading assignment and write a 3-sentence quotation explaining the author's use of a particular literary device to emphasize the story's themes. 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.

Pearl not only personifies Hester's sin, but also, ironically, its just reward:

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)

Hawthorne fully extends the metaphor he makes of Pearl as the living embodiment of the scarlet letter, ensuring that his readers won't miss his meaning, even as he ironically differentiates between the righteous intentions of "just" men and those of their more gracious God.