

Name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

SCORE/GRADE:

WORLDVIEW: *The Scarlet Letter*

Answer the question below by interpreting a passage from this story. Write a 3-sentence quotation that explains how the passage you have chosen provides an answer to the question. Remember, a 3-sentence quotation includes the following 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.

The question:

(Insert question from Worldview Socratic List 1a. through 13i.)

Socratic Question 2. What does the story say about human nature?

Through the narrative, Hawthorne suggests that human beings are not angels, but sinners, and he weaves this truth into the very setting of his story:

The founders of a new colony, whatever Utopia of human virtue and happiness they might originally project, have invariably recognized it among their earliest practical necessities to allot a portion of the virgin soil as a cemetery, and another portion as the site of a prison...Certain it is that, some fifteen or twenty years after the settlement of the town, the wooden jail was already marked with weather-stains and other indications of age which gave a yet darker aspect to its beetle-browed and gloomy front...Like all that pertains to crime, it seemed never to have known a youthful era. (Hawthorne 55)

However noble and pious the community aspired to be, it had to acknowledge its need for law and judgment; sinners must be ruled.