

NDHS JUNIOR SUMMER READING PROJECT

All incoming juniors are required to read *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne and are to complete one of the project options listed below.

Synopsis of the novel:

Set in the harsh Puritan community of seventeenth-century Boston, this tale of an adulterous entanglement that results in an illegitimate birth reveals Nathaniel Hawthorne's concerns with the tension between the public and the private selves. Publicly disgraced and ostracized, Hester Prynne draws on her inner strength and certainty of spirit to emerge as the first true heroine of American fiction. Arthur Dimmesdale, trapped by the rules of society, stands as a classic study of a self divided.

The novel may be purchased through [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), at Bestseller bookstores, and other online retailers.

Option 1: Character Journal

Divide the novel into roughly four equal parts. Next, choose a character and at some appropriate moment in the work write a confessional of two hundred and fifty words or so expressing the character's thoughts about what he or she is experiencing. The entry should include either one or two direct quotes with parenthetical citations (page numbers), but the rest of the entry must be original. Grades will be based on the quality of writing, use of text evidence, and the degree to which you are able to capture the character or show insight into the character's plight. Remember, each of the four entries must be approximately 250 words.

Option 2: Analytic Journal - Tracing characterization, theme, symbols

First divide the novel into roughly four equal sections. As you actively read, pay particularly close attention to characterization, theme, and symbolism. For each quarter of the book you are to transcribe a passage of at least 100 words that reveals something important about a character, helps develop a theme, or has some symbolic significance, making sure to include page number(s). If the passage is particularly lengthy, you may use ellipses...however, you will need to include at least 100 words of the original text. After transcribing the short passage, you must explain its significance--what it reveals about a character, how it develops a theme, or how it operates symbolically. Although grades will be based mostly on the aptness of the passages and the quality of effort and insight displayed in the commentary, the commentary for each passage must be at least 150 words, making each of the four entries a minimum of 250 words (100 word transcript + 150 word commentary).

Option 3: Art Integration

Design an original book cover that includes inside flaps. Your book cover must contain two symbols that reflect two separate themes in the text. Your book cover must also include an original synopsis of the novel and a biography of the author. In addition to the book cover, you will need to include a 500 word analysis of the symbols included on the book cover.

Option 4 – Technology Project

Create a movie trailer for the novel using iMovie or a similar program. iMovie is free and very user friendly. The trailer must be original and cannot use any ideas from a trailer that has already been created. The trailer must address thematic content and focus on the problem that is to be resolved. The video must be a minimum of 2 minutes. Students must include a 400 to 500 word analysis of the movie trailer. The analysis will identify their choices in sound, images and editing, and explain how these choices contribute to the trailer's effectiveness or reinforce an important theme from the novel. The analysis should be thoughtful and show the depth of your understanding of the novel.