

Trenton Catholic Academy

English II Honors

Summer Reading 2018

*The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne  
Written Assignment

*The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne is considered a quintessential American novel that explores topics such as hypocrisy, society, and the expectations society holds for individuals. Although written in an era long before our time, there are various themes that relate to life in America and our society today.

**Assignment:**

First, as you read *The Scarlet Letter*, evaluate the standards by which the characters are measured. Be sure to pay close attention to the various standards and expectations held for each main character. How do these standards affect their decisions and their behavior? Do the main characters meet the standards held for their character, or do they embrace their individuality? What are the consequences?

Second, contemplate the labels society places on those who decide to deviate from cultural norms and embrace their individuality both in the Puritan era and our society. Do we “brand” them with our own symbols or labels, or is today’s society and culture more accepting? Be sure to explain the connection between Hawthorne’s novel and our society with specific details from the text.

**Formatting:**

Typed in Times New Roman, font size 12 and double-spaced

Use one inch margins

**Heading:**

Name, class, teacher, date

**Due:**

Due date: August 1, 2018

E-mail to [khornick@trentoncatholic.org](mailto:khornick@trentoncatholic.org) for assessment purposes.