

Name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

SCORE/GRADE:

CONFLICT: *The Scarlet Letter*

On the lines below, categorize this story's conflict in a single paragraph as *Man v. Man*, *Man v. Nature*, *Man v. God*, *Man v. Society*, or *Man v. Himself*. Be sure to refer to the events of the story to explain your answer.

In this story, the main character, Hester Prynne, wants forgiveness. She struggles against the harsh judgment of her community and suffers from the isolation it imposes upon her. A scapegoat, she lives apart from the other colonists. (Man vs. Society) Their unfeeling condemnation provokes her to rebellion, rather than repentance. She wears their censure like an ornament. Even so, this obstinacy keeps her from true penitence, the only source of freedom. (Man vs. Self; Man vs. God) Because her husband swears her to keep his identity secret, she becomes complicit in his vengeful persecution of her lover, the Reverend Arthur Dimmesdale. As Arthur's constitution withers, her guilt grows. She needs his forgiveness, too. (Man vs. Man) Her daughter Pearl likewise aggravates her shame, fingering her sin and keeping its memory ever green; yet, she loves the child fiercely. Although Hester knows her sin, she cannot forsake it. (Man vs. Self) Hawthorne's living depiction of the depravity of man, Hester wants grace.