

Name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

SCORE/GRADE:

READING QUIZ: *The Scarlet Letter*

Choose a passage from today's reading assignment and write a 3-sentence quotation interpreting the passage that relates the setting of the story to its main 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.

Hawthorne begins to develop his subject of human depravity and divine grace at the outset of his narrative with contrasting images of two "flowers:" a prison and a rose.

Before this ugly edifice, between it and the wheel-track of the street, was a grass plot, much overgrown with burdock, . . . which evidently found something congenial in the soil that had so early borne the black flower of civilized society, a prison. But on one side of the portal, and rooted almost at the threshold, was a wild rose-bush, covered, in this month of June, with its delicate gems, which might be imagined to offer their fragrance and fragile beauty to the prisoner as he went in, and to the condemned criminal as he came forth to his doom, in token that the deep heart of Nature could pity and be kind to him. (Hawthorne 56)

While society extends to ruined man the judgment which the Law demands, fallen creation proffers a rose, an empathetic gesture. This rose represents a common grace that grows amid the cursed thorns of sin that plague men, offering relief and hopeful sweetness to an otherwise blasted landscape.