

The Scarlet Letter

By Nathaniel Hawthorne

Summary : Chapter 12 *THE MINISTER'S VIGIL*

Chapter 12, titled "The Minister's Vigil," in Nathaniel Hawthorne's novel "The Scarlet Letter," plays a crucial role in the development of the story.

In this chapter, we witness the dramatic transformation of Reverend Arthur Dimmesdale, the town's beloved minister, as he grapples with the guilt of his secret sin.

As Hester and Pearl return to the town after their time in isolation, Dimmesdale's inner turmoil intensifies. He becomes obsessed with the idea of confessing his sin to the townspeople but is unable to find the strength to do so.

In the beginning of chapter 12 of the novel "The Scarlet Letter," Reverend Arthur Dimmesdale ascends the scaffold, a raised platform of public shame, during the night. He's in intense pain and screams, fearing that the entire town will awaken and see him. Fortunately, the townspeople who hear his cry mistake it for a witch's voice and don't investigate further.

As Dimmesdale stands on the scaffold, he has bizarre thoughts. He even almost laughs when he sees Reverend Wilson passing by. In his delirium, he thinks of calling out to the older minister, but Wilson, busy with the dying Governor Winthrop, doesn't notice Dimmesdale. This near encounter makes Dimmesdale imagine what would happen if everyone saw their respected minister in such a shameful place.

Dimmesdale's laughter is unexpectedly met with laughter from Pearl, whom he hadn't noticed before. Hester and Pearl had also been at Governor Winthrop's deathbed because Hester was asked to make his burial robe. Dimmesdale invites them to join him on the scaffold, and they form a symbolic connection by holding hands.

Pearl innocently asks Dimmesdale if he'll stand there with her and Hester the next day, but he replies that it will happen at a different time, suggesting the "great judgment day." Then, a meteor lights up the sky, momentarily revealing an "A" in red light. Pearl points out a figure in the distance, Chillingworth.

At the same time, Pearl points to a figure that stands in the distance and watches them. It is Chillingworth. Dimmesdale asks Hester who Chillingworth really is, because the man occasions in him what he calls "a nameless horror." But Hester, sworn to secrecy, cannot reveal her husband's identity. Pearl claims to know but speaks gibberish when she tries to tell Dimmesdale. Pearl explains that she's punishing him for not standing with them publicly. Chillingworth approaches and persuades Dimmesdale to come down, suggesting that he must have sleepwalked onto the scaffold. They both return home, and the following day, Dimmesdale delivers a powerful sermon.

The following day, the minister preaches his most powerful sermon to date. After the sermon, the church sexton hands Dimmesdale a black glove that was found on the scaffold. The sexton recognized it as the minister's, but concluded only that Satan must have been up to some mischief. The sexton then reveals another startling piece of information: he says that there has been report of a meteor falling last night in the shape of a letter "A." The townspeople have interpreted that it stand for "Angel" and took it as a sign that Governor Winthrop has ascended to heaven.

Chapter 12 The Scarlet Letter Text

Joacim Rocklöv



Chapter 12 The Scarlet Letter Text:

The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne (Book Analysis) Bright Summaries,2019-03-28 Unlock the more straightforward side of *The Scarlet Letter* with this concise and insightful summary and analysis This engaging summary presents an analysis of *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne The scarlet letter of the title is the letter A which the protagonist Hester Prynne must wear as punishment for having committed adultery However Hester's virtuous behaviour throughout the narrative makes clear the line between guilt and innocence is not clear cut and she proves an easy character to sympathise with Through her story Hawthorne examines the stifling role of Puritanism in her society and the double standards applied to men and women in matters of morality *The Scarlet Letter* was chosen by *The Guardian* as one of the 100 greatest novels ever written in English and it is widely considered to be a classic of American literature Find out everything you need to know about *The Scarlet Letter* in a fraction of the time This in depth and informative reading guide brings you A complete plot summary Character studies Key themes and symbols Questions for further reflection Why choose BrightSummaries.com Available in print and digital format our publications are designed to accompany you on your reading journey The clear and concise style makes for easy understanding providing the perfect opportunity to improve your literary knowledge in no time See the very best of literature in a whole new light with BrightSummaries.com

The Scarlet Letter Nathaniel Hawthorne,2012-08-30 Edited by Joseph Pearce Contributors to this volume Jennifer Bonsell Richard Harp Regis Martin Mary R Reichardt Aaron Urbanczyk A key figure in the development of American literature Nathaniel Hawthorne was also profoundly influenced by his ancestors and the Christianity that underscored their Puritan heritage A literary classic *The Scarlet Letter* presents a profound meditation on the nature of sin repentance and redemption and on how such Christian concepts may be integrated into American democracy This edition features an introduction by Aaron Urbanczyk chair of the literature department at Southern Catholic College that explores themes in *The Custom House* that guide the reader's interpretation of the text of the novel and several critical articles on the work's major symbols and Christian themes Mary R Reichardt the editor of this edition is a professor of literature in the Catholic Studies department at the University of St Thomas in St Paul MN

Bloom's How to Write about Nathaniel Hawthorne Laurie A. Sterling,2009 Nathaniel Hawthorne's fiction has left a lasting impression on writers scholars and readers around the world *Hawthorne's the Scarlet Letter* Leland Ryken,2013 Guides readers through the signature book of American literature Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter* and unpacks its universal themes of sin knowledge and the human condition Part of the *Christian Guides to the Classics* series

The Scarlet Letter Study Guide CD Saddleback Educational Publishing,2011-01-01 Thirty five reproducible activities per guide reinforce basic reading and comprehension skills while teaching high order critical thinking Also included are teaching suggestions background notes summaries and answer keys The guide is digital and only available on CD ROM simply print the activities you need for each lesson Timeless Classics designed for the struggling reader and

adapted to retain the integrity of the original classic These classic novels will grab a student s attention from the first page Included are eight pages of end of book activities to enhance the reading experience **Textual Practice** Terence Hawkes,1993-04 Since its launch in 1987 Textual Practice has established itself as Britain s leading journal of radical literary theory *A Bibliography of Nathaniel Hawthorne* ,1905 **Teaching Macbeth (and More)** Dan Flickstein,1996-03-12 I have taught English for 27 years I ve trained six student teachers and mentored three new teachers This book would have been a great help to all these young people It is a sensible guide to teaching literature and a welcome addition to the English teacher s bookshelf Betty Wallach English Teacher Franklin D Roosevelt High School Brooklyn New York A sure footed guide through the educational forest this is a practical organized source that will prove indispensable for all high school English teachers Mel Glenn Author English Teacher Abraham Lincoln High School Brooklyn New York A realistic insightful and extremely useful work At a time when many denigrate public education Flickstein demonstrates effectively that all students can indeed learn Richard Goldfarb Supervisor of English Department New York City Secondary Schools Stimulate your students minds and teach them to love literature Incorporate literature into your curriculum and watch students skills improve at all levels Shows how literature can help your students achieve these goals Stimulate clear logical thinking Promote understanding and appreciation Clarify life values Improve vocabulary Develop writing speaking and listening skills Improve communication with peers Written by a practitioner with more than 25 years of experience this book will help you create a perfect fit between your students and the literature you re teaching them Flickstein presents detailed examples of lessons that will challenge your students and let them achieve substantial success Designed for both novice and experienced teachers this book includes four sets of lessons you can use right away or keep as guides for designing lesson plans in the future If you ve despaired of making literature a successful part of your curriculum here s the help you re looking for

Religion and the Muse , **The Missing Medical Text** Anthony R. Moore,1978 [Black Elk's Story](#) Julian Rice,1991 *Black Elk Speaks* the book of John G Neihardt s interviews with the Lakota visionary is one of the most successful popularizations of Native American religious thought Using the original transcripts of the interviews Rice points beyond *Black Elk Speaks* to an increased awareness of difference between Christianity and the Lakota spiritual tradition To understand these differences *Black Elk* must be cleanly disentangled from Neihardt Niehardt was a Christian poet with a typological belief in providential progress culminating in the enlightenment of all peoples in universal love *Black Elk* was more complex at various times using the language of a Lakota traditionalist a Catholic catechist or a synthesis of both Rice argues that *Black Elk* retained throughout his life the priorities of his original Lakota identity as healer visionary and warrior and held to one constant purpose the transmission of the Lakota ways to the Lakota people This indispensable study is the first to discuss thoroughly all the major *Black Elk* material and the various critical approaches to it The result is a rich dialogue with *Black Elk* and Lakota culture that will be of value to literary critics anthropologists and other students of

Native America culture Back cover **The Translation Zone** Emily Apter, 2011-10-16 Translation before 9 11 was deemed primarily an instrument of international relations business education and culture Today it seems more than ever a matter of war and peace In *The Translation Zone* Emily Apter argues that the field of translation studies habitually confined to a framework of linguistic fidelity to an original is ripe for expansion as the basis for a new comparative literature Organized around a series of propositions that range from the idea that nothing is translatable to the idea that everything is translatable *The Translation Zone* examines the vital role of translation studies in the invention of comparative literature as a discipline Apter emphasizes language wars including the role of mistranslation in the art of war linguistic incommensurability in translation studies the tension between textual and cultural translation the role of translation in shaping a global literary canon the resistance to Anglophone dominance and the impact of translation technologies on the very notion of how translation is defined The book speaks to a range of disciplines and spans the globe Ultimately *The Translation Zone* maintains that a new comparative literature must take stock of the political impact of translation technologies on the definition of foreign or symbolic languages in the humanities while recognizing the complexity of language politics in a world at once more monolingual and more multilingual *The Scarlet Letter: Text, Sources, Criticism* Nathaniel Hawthorne, 1961 In 18th century Boston a Puritan girl is condemned to wear the letter A for bearing an illegitimate daughter *Publishers' Circular and General Record of British and Foreign Literature, and Booksellers' Record*, 1897 ***Publishers' circular and booksellers' record***, 1873 *Bulletin of Lafayette College* Lafayette College (Easton, Pa.), 1908 *The English Catalogue of Books ...* Sampson Low, 1907 ***The Annual American Catalogue ...***, 1902 *The Publishers' Circular and Booksellers' Record of British and Foreign Literature*, 1892 *Serindia* Sir Aurel Stein, 1921

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