

## English 3 Honors Summer Assignment 2022

Students registered for English 3 Honors are to read *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne. At the start of the school year, students will be assessed on the novel. As you read, you should take notes on major developments within the novel (character/ plot development, symbolic, and thematic). Specifically, consider the following while taking notes:

Students are responsible for obtaining the book. If this is a problem, please email Ms. Scott at [lscott@bhpsnj.org](mailto:lscott@bhpsnj.org), prior to June 14th, and she will arrange for you to borrow a copy.

### Themes

- The punishment imposed upon us by others may not be as destructive as the guilt we experience.
- Revenge destroys the victim and the seeker.
- Even well-intended deceptions and secrets can be destructive.
- Each person possesses the capacity for both good and evil.

### Symbols

- The scarlet letter itself/ the letter A
- The forest
- The prison
- The absence and presence of light
- The rose
- The names of Pearl, Dimmesdale, Chillingworth
- The scaffold
- Sunlight
- Colors and absence of color

### Rhetorical Devices

- Contrasts (i.e. Good/evil, dark/light, forest/town, color/absence of color, supernatural/reality, etc.)
- Description
- Word Choice (diction)
- Contradiction/ Irony
- Motif (hand over heart, The Black Man, the color red)

Reading some of the following texts, in addition to *The Scarlet Letter*, would be beneficial.

*Ethan Frome* by Edith Wharton. "Ethan Frome works his unproductive farm and struggles to maintain a bearable existence with his difficult, suspicious and hypochondriac wife, Zeena. But when Zeena's vivacious cousin enters their household as a hired girl, Ethan finds himself obsessed with her and with the possibilities for happiness she comes to represent."

[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/5246.Ethan\\_Frome.](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/5246.Ethan_Frome.)

*Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng. “Lydia is dead. But they don’t know this yet. So begins this exquisite novel about a Chinese American family living in 1970s small-town Ohio. Lydia is the favorite child of Marilyn and James Lee, and her parents are determined that she will fulfill the dreams they were unable to pursue. But when Lydia’s body is found in the local lake, the delicate balancing act that has been keeping the Lee family together is destroyed, tumbling them into chaos.”

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/18693763-everything-i-never-told-you>

*Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain “A nineteenth-century boy from a Mississippi River town recounts his adventures as he travels down the river with a runaway slave, encountering a family involved in a feud, two scoundrels pretending to be royalty, and Tom Sawyer's aunt who mistakes him for Tom. “

[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2956.The\\_Adventures\\_of\\_Huckleberry\\_Finn.](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2956.The_Adventures_of_Huckleberry_Finn.))

*In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote “On November 15, 1959, in the small town of Holcomb, Kansas, four members of the Clutter family were savagely murdered by blasts from a shotgun held a few inches from their faces. There was no apparent motive for the crime, and there were almost no clues.”

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/in-cold-blood-truman-capote/1101755577?bvstate=pg:4/ct:r.>)

*The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan “Four mothers, four daughters, four families, whose histories shift with the four winds depending on who's telling the stories. In 1949, four Chinese women, recent immigrants to San Francisco, meet weekly to play mahjong and tell stories of what they left behind in China. United in loss and new hope for their daughters' futures, they call themselves the Joy Luck Club. Their daughters, who have never heard these stories, think their mothers' advice is irrelevant to their modern American lives – until their own inner crises reveal how much they've unknowingly inherited of their mothers' pasts”

[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/7763.The\\_Joy\\_Luck\\_Club.](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/7763.The_Joy_Luck_Club.))

*Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi. “In powerful black-and-white comic strip images, Satrapi tells the story of her life in Tehran from ages six to fourteen, years that saw the overthrow of the Shah’s regime, the triumph of the Islamic Revolution, and the devastating effects of war with Iraq. The intelligent and outspoken only child of committed Marxists and the great-granddaughter of one of Iran’s last emperors, Marjane bears witness to a childhood uniquely entwined with the history of her country.”

[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/9516.Persepolis?ac=1&from\\_search=true&qid=0soxwnbk7p&rank=1](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/9516.Persepolis?ac=1&from_search=true&qid=0soxwnbk7p&rank=1)

*Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston. “Fair and long-legged, independent and articulate, Janie Crawford sets out to be her own person -- no mean feat for a black woman in the '30s. Janie's quest for identity takes her through three marriages and into a journey back to her roots.”

[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/37415.Their\\_Eyes\\_Were\\_Watching\\_God](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/37415.Their_Eyes_Were_Watching_God)