



The Catholic High School of Baltimore
Summer Reading

Teacher's Name: Mr. Robinson

School Year: 2025-2026

Grade Level: 10

Course No.: 121

Course Name: American Literature

Academic Level (AP/Honors/CP/Archangel): Honors

ASSIGNED READING

The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne

“Set in 17th-century Puritan Boston, Massachusetts, during the years 1642 to 1649, it tells the story of Hester Prynne, who conceives a daughter through an affair and will not reveal her lover’s identity. The scarlet letter A (for adultery) she has to wear on her clothes, along with her public shaming, is her punishment for her sin and her secrecy. She struggles to create a new life of repentance and dignity. Throughout the book, Hawthorne explores themes of legalism, sin, and guilt.” —from *Goodreads*

ASSIGNMENT

Your assignment is to read *The Scarlet Letter* by the first day of class. During the first week, you will participate in a Socratic Seminar focused on the novel. A Socratic Seminar is a formal, student-led discussion based on open-ended questions about a text. In this format, students are expected to listen actively, think critically, and express their own ideas while responding thoughtfully to the contributions of others. To prepare, you should take notes and/or use post-it notes to mark key ideas, passages, or questions as you read. While you will not be graded on your annotations, they are essential for meaningful participation in the seminar. More details about the Socratic Seminar process will be shared in class.

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