

Pre-AP English II

Summer Assignment 2019

Overview

1. Read the book *Elements of Style* and complete Task #1.
2. Read the book *The Scarlet Letter* and complete Task #2.

TASKS

Task #1: ELEMENTS OF STYLE

STEP ONE: Read *The Elements of Style* (4th edition) by William Strunk and E.B. White--the entire thing, cover to cover, including the forward and introduction. An online copy is available here: <http://www.jlakes.org/ch/web/The-elements-of-style.pdf>

As you read, take extensive notes on the authors' various rules and advice for writing. Using DocHub, annotate the text as you read--marking important pages, asking questions where you find confusion, and highlighting key passages.

STEP TWO: In a GoogleDocs file titled "TASK 1: ELEMENTS OF STYLE", answer the following questions and/or respond to the following prompts:

1. After reading Section I, identify three rules of usage which have plagued your own writing or speaking. Quote the rule from *Elements* in your discussion. If you have overcome the tendency to make the mistakes you're discussing, explain how you mastered those rules.
2. After reading Section II, identify three points E. B. White makes about writing that you find intriguing and explain your thoughts in three separate paragraphs. Quote White directly and explain fully.
3. After reading Sections III and IV on forms and misuses, identify ten elements of the language which you have not mastered or were not aware of. Explain, in your own words, the correct use of each element in a separate paragraph. The length of these paragraphs will vary, of course, depending on the element and your individual explanation.
4. After reading Section V in which White makes 21 points about style, choose three of these points and apply each to your own writing. In three separate, brief paragraphs, explain how each point has been a weakness or strength in your writing abilities.

Note: The plagiarizing of material for summer reading will result in an automatic ZERO!

Task #2: THE SCARLET LETTER

STEP ONE: Read *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne (available online here: http://www.planetpublish.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/The_Scarlet_Letter_T.pdf)

Download as a DocHub and annotate as you read--marking important pages, asking questions where you find confusion, and highlighting key passages. Refer to the following three categories that are pertinent in understanding and analyzing Hawthorne's choices and use of rhetoric.

Themes

The *Scarlet Letter* explores the effects of sin, guilt, punishment, and revenge. Below are some themes that run throughout the novel:

- Guilt can destroy a person, body and soul.
- The choices people make determine what they become.
- The punishment imposed on us by others may not be as destructive as the guilt we experience.
- True repentance must come from within.
- Revenge destroys the victim and the seeker.
- Even well intended deceptions and secrets can lead to destruction.
- One must have the courage to be true to one's self.
- Within each person is the capacity for both good and evil.
- It is by recognizing and dealing with their weaknesses that people grow stronger.

Symbols

The *Scarlet Letter* is considered to be the world's first truly symbolic novel. Below are some examples of symbols to watch for that carry through and change throughout the novel, though I'll leave their interpretations up to you:

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

Rhetorical Devices to achieve purpose

Watch for the following as you read. When you find prominent examples of each, actively consider why he used it and how he used it. What is his purpose, and how does his use rhetorical devices help him convey his purpose to the reader?

- Contrasts (ie. Good/evil, dark/light, forest/town, color/absence of color, supernatural/ reality, etc.)
- Duality (ie. How does Pearl's character reflect the duality of the Puritan community?)
- Ambiguity
- Allegory
- Symbolism

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- Contradiction/ Irony
 - Connotations (especially with names); aka characternym (a name that symbolizes or stands for some aspect of the character's personality)
 - Motif (hand over heart, The Black Man, the color red)

STEP TWO: In a GoogleDocs file titled "TASK 2: THE SCARLET LETTER", please complete the following journal entries. Each should take up its own page. (Use "Insert-->Break-->Page Break" as needed.)

You will have 10 journal entries to complete. See the following page for the list of entries that correspond to chapters. Please properly label each entry and respond to each using commentary, analysis, insight, interpretation, etc.

Each entry should be at least 200 words in length and should address all of the components of the questions addressed. Refer to the above notes as much as needed to help you respond to each entry.

DUE DATE: Second day of school (Thursday, August 15, 2019)

Journal 1	The Custom House “The Custom House” What is romanticism? What is the purpose of this chapter? How does Hawthorne’s family history contribute to his attitude toward The Custom House and his place in society? How would you describe Hawthorne’s attitude toward his former job and fellow workers? Why do you think so? (This is asking for TONE and evidence supporting your inference.) In this essay, Hawthorne addresses the reader directly. What effect does he create with this manner? What effect does the detailed description of the scarlet letter have on you?
Journal 2	Chapters 1-2 What is the narrator’s attitude toward the Puritans? What is his attitude toward Hester? Discuss themes, symbols, and rhetorical devices in these chapters (see above).
Journal 3	Chapters 3-4 How does the narrator present Chillingworth to the reader? Discuss themes, symbols, and rhetorical devices in these chapters (see above).
Journal 4	Chapters 5-6 What is the effect of the scarlet letter upon Hester? Describe Pearl’s character. Discuss themes, symbols, and rhetorical devices in these chapters (see above).
Journal 5	Chapters 7-8 Explain Hester’s argument concerning her rights to Pearl. Discuss themes, symbols, and rhetorical devices in these chapters (see above).
Journal 6	Chapters 9-12 What is Chillingworth’s project? What is Dimmesdale’s inner struggle, and how does it affect him? Discuss themes, symbols, and rhetorical devices in these chapters (see above).
Journal 7	Chapters 13-15 In what different ways can the scarlet letter be interpreted? What do these different ways reveal about Hester’s view of herself and her role in Puritan society? Discuss themes, symbols, and rhetorical devices in these chapters (see above).
Journal 8	Chapters 16-19 Explain the kind of love Hester and Dimmesdale have for each other. What prevents them from acting upon this love? Discuss themes, symbols, and rhetorical devices in these chapters (see above).
Journal 9	Chapters 20-22 Why does Dimmesdale finally announce his guilt? How does he do so – what type of language does he use, who does he address, and why? Discuss themes, symbols, and rhetorical devices in these chapters (see above).
Journal 10	Chapters 23-24 What is Hester’s role in society? What is her view of the role? Discuss themes, symbols, and rhetorical devices in these chapters (see above).