

**AP English Language and Composition (11<sup>th</sup> grade English)**  
**Summer Reading Assignment 2017**

Mrs. Humbard, Mrs. Huynh-Duc, and Mr. Walker

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**Summer Reading Materials:**

*The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne

*On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft* by Stephen King

**Due Dates:**

- Monday, August 28 (the first day of school): Answers to the Critical Reading Questions (below) for *The Scarlet Letter*
- Tuesday, September 5: Test on both works of summer reading

**Writing Assignment Directions:** After you read *The Scarlet Letter* (feel free to omit The Custom-House section at the beginning), complete the corresponding critical reading questions below. Your responses must be typed in Times New Roman, size 12 font, double-spaced. Include a header in the upper left hand corner with your name, your teacher's name, title, and date. (Look up 'proper MLA formatting' if you need more information.) Be sure that your responses are thoughtful, fully developed, and free of grammatical, mechanical, and spelling errors. Do not plagiarize—your work will receive a zero!

**Critical Reading Questions (must be answered in complete sentences):**

1. Some literary critics argue that Hester Prynne is one of American Literature's first feminists. Agree or disagree with this assertion using multiple specific examples from the text.
2. Describe Hawthorne's use of dramatic irony, and cite multiple specific examples to support your response.
3. How does Hester's attitude change from the first moment she emerges from the jail through the last scene of the novel? What major events assist in her transformation? Be specific and use concrete examples from the text.
4. What is Hawthorne's overall TONE in this novel? Provide several textual examples to explain your reasoning.
5. What is Hawthorne's overall MESSAGE in this novel? Analyzing his language (i.e., literary and rhetorical devices), explain *how* he conveys this message and *why* he makes those choices.