American Studies

*The Scarlet Letter*

Test

**Part I.** *The final scaffold scene* **(partnered) (25 points)**

**FORMAT:** Ten sentences **MAXIMUM**, including quotations

**C:\Users\LuccheseJ\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Low\Content.IE5\KNBQFFT9\MC900352999[1].WMFMoral Blossom:** “The reader may choose among these theories” (237).

**QUESTIONS:**

* The last scaffold scene provides both closure and questions for the character you’ve been tracking since the very first scaffold scene. As Hawthorne has requested, choose your own perspective on the question that arises from your character in the last scaffold scene.
  + Use at least **two quotations** from throughout the novel to prove your viewpoint.

**HESTER:** She is still a source of refuge and strength in the last scaffold scene. For this reason, many

scholars see her as the first American heroine. Does she merit this label? Why/ why not?

**DIMMS:** Is he still the selfish coward that he is at the beginning, or do you see him as redeeming

himself? Why/ why not?

**CHILLS:**  He has lost everything in this last scaffold scene. Does he merit our pity? Why/ why not?

**PEARL:**  While other characters are losing their lives at the scaffold, she gains hers. Is the gift of her

humanity worth the loss of her father? Why/why not?

**Part II.** *The circle of we* **(partnered) (25 points)**

**FORMAT:** Fifteen sentences **MAXIMUM**, including quotations

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**Moral Blossom:** “Stubborn fidelity…when proofs, clear as the mid-day sunshine on

the scarlet letter, establish a false and sin-stained creature of the

dust” (237).

**QUESTIONS:**

* What opinion does Hawthorne have of the “circle of we” at the end of the novel?
* How has he developed the “circle of we” as a fifth character at the scaffold scenes?
* Why does it matter?
  + Use at least **three quotations** from throughout the novel to prove your viewpoint.

--Over, please--

**Part III.** *The other moral blossoms* **(50 points)**

**FORMAT:** Twenty sentences MAXIMUM, including quotations

**C:\Users\LuccheseJ\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Low\Content.IE5\KNBQFFT9\MC900352999[1].WMFMoral Blossom:** “Be true! Be true! Be true!” (238).

**C:\Users\LuccheseJ\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Low\Content.IE5\KNBQFFT9\MC900352999[1].WMFMoral Blossom:** “…whether hatred and love be not the same thing at bottom” (238).

**C:\Users\LuccheseJ\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Low\Content.IE5\KNBQFFT9\MC900352999[1].WMFMoral Blossom:** “…sacred love should make us happy, by the truest test of a life successful to

such an end!” (241).

**QUESTIONS:**

* Choose one of the remaining moral blossoms from those written above.
* Has Hawthorne made a good case for the validity of this moral blossom over the course of the novel? Why; why not?
* One of the ways to measure whether or not Hawthorne makes a good case for his moral blossom is to explore its personal and social relevance. Does this blossom apply to your life? Does it apply to our society today? If yes, why, and how? If not, why not?
  + Use at least **three quotations** from throughout the novel to prove your viewpoint.

**EVALUATION CRITERIA:**

* Textual evidence (quotations from throughout the novel, not just the last few chapters) is used to support your viewpoints.
* A clear understanding of your viewpoint is presented.
* Analysis provides a deeper level of meaning and connects to Hawthorne’s deeper themes, arguments, and exigences (including our discussions of liberty and order).
* Creativity and originality are apparent.
* Quotations are woven directly into analysis.
* Correct punctuation and grammar are used.
* Clear, coherent writing is apparent with no “This quote shows…”.
* **Adherence to sentence length is a must!**