

**Honors Junior English Summer Reading Assignment**  
**Read the novel, *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne**

**Write an essay responding to the following prompt. Your essay is due on the first day of class.**

**Prompt: Climb Every Scaffold**

[The novel] is built around the scaffold. At the beginning, in the middle, and at the end of the story the scaffold is the dominating point. Just as it literally rises above the market-place, so does it structurally rise out of the novel's plan and attribute pattern to it. In chapter 2, after the very short first chapter, Hester is taken up on the scaffold. In chapter 12, the middle chapter (when we omit the concluding chapter), Dimmesdale mounts the scaffold. In chapter 23, the last (omitting the conclusion), Dimmesdale takes Hester and Pearl up there with him. These three incidents are, in every sense, the high points of the novel.<sup>1</sup> Based on these observations, explain how Hawthorne uses the symbol to contribute to the tension of the plot.

Requirements:

- ❖ Respond in 4-5 paragraphs
- ❖ Include an introduction and conclusion.
- ❖ Use transitions between three pieces of textual evidence
- ❖ Cite all paraphrases or quotations using internal citation
- ❖ Have a copy of your essay ready to upload to Canvas on the first day of school

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<sup>1</sup> Leland Schubert, *Hawthorne, the Artist: Fine-Art Devices in Fiction* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1944), 138.