Honors 11: *The Scarlet Letter* Essay Preparation Information

The culminating assessment of *The Scarlet Letter* is an essay, with no length requirement, in which you are to discuss *how symbols in the story enhance the meaning of the story*.

**Structure of assessment:**

You will be given a selection of text that serves to be the jumping off point of your analysis. This means that it will narrow the scope of symbols that you can choose to analyze and help give you a direction for your analysis and probably body paragraph 1. Your analysis will then contain other examples from different parts of the story that you can think of that relate to your chosen symbol. *There is no length requirement, but you will need a beginning, middle and end*.

It can be typed or hand-written, but it will be put through turnitin.com AND uploaded to RicherPicture. See reverse for rubric. **WORTH A TEST GRADE!**

**To prepare:**

* Review TEXT structure, and essay writing tips
* Review “Symbolism” chart
* Write three possible thesis statements about three different symbols in the text explaining *how* the symbol enhances the story (*NOT JUST WHAT THE SYMBOL REPRESENTS*)!
* Review sample TEXT PARAGRAPH below (to be clear- this is only a sample of ONE PARAGRAPH of an essay).

***Directions****: Think back on chapters 19-21 (“The Child at Brook-Side”, “The Minister in a Maze” and “New England Holiday”) and choose ONE symbol that you feel best enhances the story. Pick one that enhances the plot or highlights character development or theme development. Then,* ***write a TEXT paragraph explaining how your chosen symbol enhances the story.***

EX BODY PARAGRAPH/ Symbol- Forest

(T) Nature’s ability to accept all people and never judge is illustrated in chapter 18 when Hester takes off her letter and the setting reacts to this action in a positive way. (Anchor & E) When Hester removed the letter and let her hair down, the sunshine burst through the trees and the narrator writes, “Such was the sympathy of Nature…never subjugated by human law…” (183). (X) Through the comment that Nature was “never subjugated by human law” and shows “sympathy”, the reader is to understand that Nature has not been conquered by human judgment, and therefore, accepts Hester’s decision to remove the letter and shows sympathy for her plight. Only in the forest could this happen, as the woods accept all people and never judge them. (T) This symbol enhances the plot because without the ability to spend time together without fear of society’s judgment, Hester and Dimmesdale would not have come up with their hopeful plan of seeking a new life in the old world; therefore, the symbol of the woods is essential to revealing the theme of hope always being present in the novel.