**PERIOD E**

Humans are unable to prosper and grow without hope. If there was no belief in a better future and a better life, humans would lack motivation to continue on in this dreary life. ~~There are many miserable and depressing places throughout the world, and the only way to survive and prosper through it is with hope.~~ Hope allows humans to dream, to believe, and to even love because a better situation or opportunity could always be close by. If there were to be no hope, there would be no will or passion, leaving this world to nothing but misery. In the novel, *The Scarlet Letter*, Hester exemplifies this human experience of keeping hope and persevering while living through times of trouble. The introductory chapter to the novel, “The Prison-Door”, uses the rose bush as a symbol to exemplify the theme that hope survives even in the most miserable of places as demonstrated through Hester’s ability to persevere.

**PERIOD A-**

**Intro #3 Revision for a 3 or 4**

It is common for people to wish for a “happily ever after” ending to their lives, often envisioning a life filled with love and contentment. However, due to the unexpected variability of life, sometimes this blissful image does not actually mirror what happens in reality. ~~Frequently, a person’s life can take a turn for the worse, often without warning or hope of recovery.~~  Often, a person makes a choice that results in ~~It is these discouraging circumstances that can result in a~~ miserable life full of grief, regret, and uncertainty. It is this element of the human experience that author Nathaniel Hawthorne seeks to portray through his main character’s life in *The Scarlet Letter*. The inclusion of the contrasting symbols of the rosebush and the prison door in chapter one help the author establish a dismal tone, reflecting the theme of *The Scarlet Letter* that life does not always have a happy ending.

**PERIOD E**

BODY #2: *Thesis: Hope exists, but it cannot completely remove the sin in someone’s life, and the chapter, “The Prison-Door” illustrates this theme through the symbolization of the rose-bush.*

~~There was always an existing hope for Hester Prynne.~~ Before the reader knew that Hester would be judged for her sin, Nathaniel Hawthorne used the symbolic rose bush to reveal the theme that hope was in Hester’s future, one way or another. The narrator described the layout of the town, and near the prison was the symbol of hope for the prisoners in the form of a rose bush, “a wild rose-bush,… with its delicate gems, which might be imagined to offer their fragrance and fragile beauty to the prisoner as he went in, and to the condemned criminal as he came forth to his doom, in token that the deep heart of Nature could pity and be kind to him” (Chapter 1). ~~The rose bush was a representation of the theme of the novel, which is that hope exists within the Puritan town.~~ From its position next to the prison door, a harsh representation of society, the rose bush gives hope to prisoners as they enter. Similarly, Hester Prynne was condemned to infinite humiliation and judgment because she committed adultery, but there was hope for her, ~~and this rose-bush exemplifies this~~ just like there is hope for the prisoners going into the prison. Despite all of her hardships, Hester remained hopeful that she could make amends for her sin and create a better life for herself and Pearl, as demonstrated through her good deeds done throughout her life. Hester was hopeful that she would overcome her sin; however, the hope she had was not enough to completely defeat her sin.