



Nathaniel Hawthorne
and the Puritan Tradition

G.H.B.
84



CONTENTS

Frontispiece:	<i>page 1</i>
Essential Questions:	<i>page 3</i>
“Sinners” Open Response:	<i>page 5</i>
“Fake Plastic Trees”:	<i>page 6</i>
SAT Vocabulary:	<i>page 7</i>
The Mote & the Beam:	<i>page 8</i>



Name _____

Date _____

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

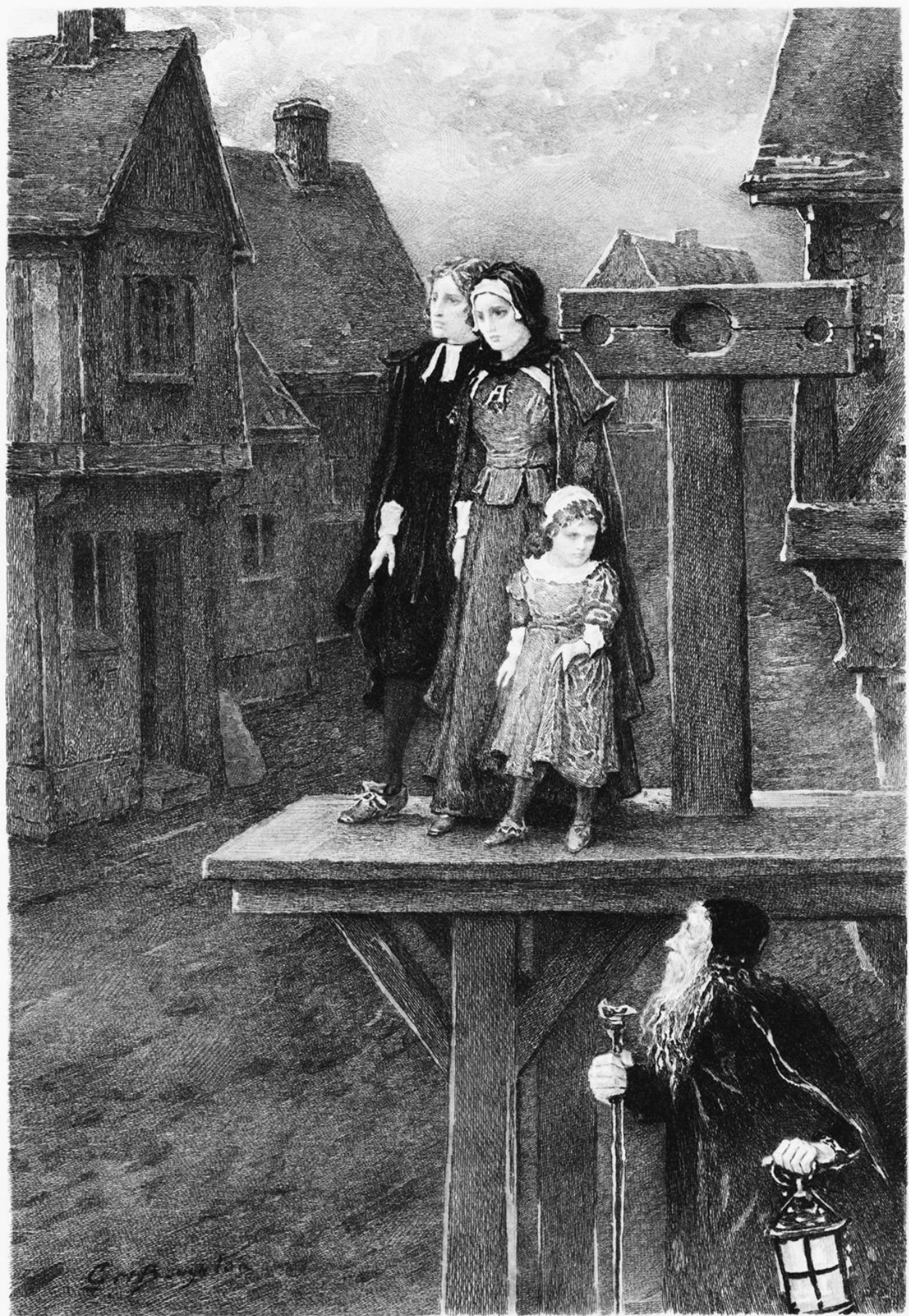
How might Jonathan Edwards's "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God" be applicable to more contemporary works of American literature?

Who was Nathaniel Hawthorne? How is the Puritan tradition reflected in his works?

What is Romanticism?

Why are Hawthorne's works often said to be allegorical? What is an allegory?

The Scarlet Letter is a staple in most American literature courses. How is Hawthorne's classic a defining work of American literature?



Date _____

OPEN RESPONSE

Why is God angry at the members of Jonathan Edwards's congregation in "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God"? What can they do in order to escape from the fiery pit of Hell? Remember to answer the question with a strong topic sentence and to clearly express your ideas using specific examples from the text, including at least one direct quotation as well as paraphrasing.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

“Fake Plastic Trees”¹

Her green plastic watering can
For her fake Chinese rubber plant
In the fake plastic earth
That she bought from a rubber man
In a town full of rubber plans
To get rid of itself

It wears her out, it wears her out
It wears her out, it wears her out

She lives with a broken man
A cracked polystyrene man
Who just crumbles and burns
He used to do surgery
For girls in the eighties
But gravity always wins

It wears him out, it wears him out
It wears him out, it wears him out

She looks like the real thing
She tastes like the real thing
My fake plastic love
But I can't help the feeling
I could blow through the ceiling
If I just turn and run

It wears me out, it wears me out
It wears me out, it wears me out

If I could be who you wanted
If I could be who you wanted all the time

All the time...
All the time.

¹ “Fake Plastic Trees” is a song by the British alternative rock band Radiohead, from their second album *The Bends* (1995). It was the third single to be released from that album in the UK, but in the US, it was released as the band's first single from the album. “Fake Plastic Trees” marked a turning point in the band's early career, moving away from the grunge sound of their earlier hit single “Creep.”

VOCABULARY

The following words from *The Scarlet Letter* have been identified as words or derivatives of words that have appeared on past SAT tests. They are listed here in the order in which they appear in the novel.

1. **Decorous** – proper behavior.
2. **Propriety** – correct conduct.
3. **Melancholy** – depression of spirits.
4. **Languid** – slow, sluggish, listless, weak.
5. **Edifice** – a very large building.
6. **Inclement** – stormy, severe.
7. **Voluminous** – marked by great volume or size.
8. **Tempestuous** – turbulent, stormy.
9. **Arduous** – very difficult to accomplish or to achieve; a very demanding task.
10. **Sagacious** – wise, shrewd, very discerning.
11. **Mirth** – gladness and merriment usually accompanied by laughter.
12. **Florid** – flowery, flushed with color.
13. **Benevolence** – kindness, generosity, clarity.
14. **Stalwart** – one who supports a cause with firm partisanship.
15. **Inauspicious** – unfavorable or unlucky.
16. **Ignominy** – disgraceful or dishonorable conduct.
17. **Remonstrate** – to protest, to make objections.
18. **Abate** – to reduce in intensity or amount.
19. **Superfluous** – beyond what is needed or required, an overflow.
20. **Penitent** – showing or feeling regret for wrongdoing, repentant.
21. **Discern** – to differentiate between two or more things.
22. **Placid** – peaceful, calm.
23. **Acuteness** – sharpness of perception.
24. **Imperious** – extremely overbearing.
25. **Wan** – very pale and sickly.
26. **Gaunt** – very thin, emaciated, angular.
27. **Depravity** – moral corruption, a wicked or perverse act.
28. **Enumerate** – to count one by one.
29. **Erudite** – scholarly.
30. **Austere** – strict, stern; unadorned.
31. **Sedulously** – very diligent, accomplishing with painstaking care.
32. **Incongruity** – nonconformity, disagreement, incompatibility.
33. **Pallor** – extreme paleness usually relating to the face.
34. **Effervescence** – showing high spirits.
35. **Audacity** – excessive boldness, rashness, daring.

Name _____

Date _____

“The Mote and the Beam” is a proverbial saying of Jesus given during the Sermon on the Mount. The discourse is fairly brief. The New Testament text is as follows:

1. JUDGE not, that ye be not judged.
2. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.
3. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?
4. Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?
5. Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

—Matthew 7:1-5 KJV

What is the moral lesson of “The Mote and the Beam”?

As we've learned this semester, the Puritans were an intensely religious people. They called themselves Christians. Jonathan Edwards even told his congregation that the only way to escape the flames of Hell was to accept Jesus Christ and become born again. Are the Puritans of Hawthorne's Salem really Christians?

