

## **ANNOTATION GUIDE: *The Scarlet Letter***

### **English 10 Honors**

The following are suggestions of types of annotations you can make as you annotate *The Scarlet Letter* for your English 10 Honors class next year. You may not have one of every type of annotation, but you should include a variety of different types.

- Figurative language, especially metaphors, similes, hyperboles and personification
- References to the historical context of the novel and the practices of individuals in the town as a result, this includes Puritanism and its influence
- The symbolic importance of places: the forest, the town / marketplace, the prison, the scaffold
- Light and dark imagery
- Nature Imagery
- The way Hawthorne creates characterization
- Examples of character foils
- Narration and changes in narration including instances of exposition interrupting the plot of the story (how and why is it included where it is?)
- The role of ministers and town leaders
- Women's roles
- Men's roles
- The way the Justice system works in the town
- Instances of the supernatural
- Sin and its effects on individuals
- Inner versus outer turmoil
- The effects of revenge and the desire for revenge
- The symbolic meaning of the letter A
- Hester's appearance and attitude and the way it contrasts with the rest of the town
- Pearl's appearance and attitude and the way it contrasts with the rest of the town
- The significance of Colors
- Meanings of chapter titles, place names and symbolic names of characters
- Changes in tone and/or writing style
- Changes in mood
- Identify repetitive phrases
- Questions about confusing parts of the novel
- Identify recurring themes
- Identify character motivation