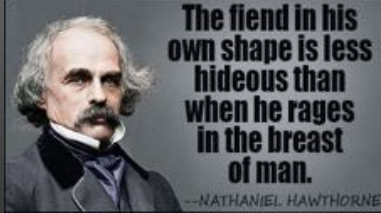


& the anti-Puritan bias of the 19th Century



Why might American authors in the 19th Century take an anti-Puritan bias in their literature?

The Scarlet Letter

- How do Hawthorne's diction and tone reveal his beliefs about the Puritan theocracy? Cite examples.
- What does Hawthorne mean when he writes "one token of her shame would but poorly serve to hide another" in the final paragraph?
- What are the central themes of *the Scarlet Letter* and how do they have timeless applicability (universal themes)?



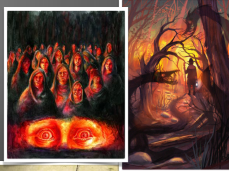
Young Goodman Brown

- MOOD: How does the setting add to the meaning of the story?
- SYMBOLISM: Discuss the colors used by Hawthorne and what these reveal.
- Discuss the significance of the second traveller, "... apparently in the same rank of life as Goodman Brown and bearing a considerable resemblance to him, though perhaps more in expression than features. Still they might have been taken for father and son."



Young Goodman Brown

- When the fellow traveller states, "I have been well acquainted with your family... I helped your grandfather, the constable, when he lashed the Quaker woman so smartly through the streets of Salem. ... The deacons of many a church have drunk wine with me; the select men of divers town make me their chairman; and a majority of the Great and General Court are firm believers of my interest," what do we begin to understand about him? Though this character, what is Hawthorne telling us about evil?
- Discuss the appearances of Goody Cloyse, Deacon Gookin, and other characters and their impact upon Young Goodman Brown.



Young Goodman Brown

- The dark figure states, "Welcome, my children, to the communion of your race. Ye have found thus young your nature and your destiny." Discuss the meaning.
- — a character, place, or event is used to deliver a broader message about real-world issues and occurrences.
- In what ways is Young Goodman Brown an *allegory* that personifies abstract qualities?



Young Goodman Brown

- Consider the following interpretations. Supply examples of specific textual evidence supporting each interpretation. Then compose a cogent thesis statement for each interpretation.
- "Young Goodman Brown" is an inward psychological journey where Goodman Brown discovers evil in himself but refuses to acknowledge it.
- "Young Goodman Brown" is a coming of age story about a young man who desires to abandon his faith to have one last "fling," to "taste the forbidden fruit," before settling into a strict Puritan life.
- Nathaniel Hawthorne wrote "Young Goodman Brown" to expose and denounce Puritan attitudes and hypocrisy.

