### Understanding <u>The Scarlet Letter</u> Character – Pearl

Pearl is a very odd child, in that she seems to have information that other, older characters do not have. She seems to know the whole story, including the identity of her father, even while she is a newborn baby. She is so odd and so wise that Hester sometimes believes that she is not really a child at all, but rather an imp or angel sent to punish or help her. Try reading her dialogue, especially the things that she says to her mother or father, in a different way, not as the words of a young child, but of someone who is much wiser than the one she is speaking to.

Find five quotes that show the kind of behavior that Hester both fears and marvels at, the kind of unearthly behavior that suggests that Pearl is more than she seems to be. On the left, write the quotes with their page numbers. In the right column, try to explain why she behaves the way she does – is she carrying out some Heavenly mission of forgiveness, or is she punishing her father and mother for their sins?

Quotes	Thoughts
1)	1)
2)	2)
3)	3)
4)	4)
5)	5)

Now write an analytical paragraph that describes Pearl. What is her true motivation? How does she affect the other characters? 75 words min.

Finally, write a one-sentence thesis statement that you could use to write a
literary analysis essay on this topic. Be sure to focus your thesis on the novel.

## Understanding <u>The Scarlet Letter</u> Technique – Mood

Review Freytag's Pyramid and the traditional plot structure in your literature book. Then, reread each of the

scaffold scenes in the novel and determine where they should fall on the Pyramid.		
Scene 1		
Scene 2		
Scene 3		
Finally write an analytical paragraph answering the following questions: What pattern does the author use to frame the reader's understanding of the book? What purpose does the scaffold serve for the author? What always happens on the scaffold in each of the three scenes?		

### Understanding <u>The Scarlet Letter</u> Theme – Sin <u>and Guilt</u>

If sin is a transgression against God or society or neighbors, then it must necessarily cause a separation between the sinner and any one of those. It must also cause a sense of guilt in the sinner until the relationship is restored and the sin is forgiven. Hester's sin separates her from her village, both physically and emotionally, and yet she prefers her public shame to the private guilt which she senses in others. In particular, she wishes her lover would confess and share her punishment, rather than punishing himself. By showing these two people reacting so differently to their own sin and guilt, the author makes it seem as if a person could bear any shame or reproach, but not guilt and self-loathing.

Find five quotes that show a character reacting to sin and guilt. Write the quotes on the left with the page numbers. On the right, describe their reaction.

Quotes	Thoughts
1)	1)
2)	2)
3)	3)
4)	4)
5)	5)

# Now write an analytical paragraph about the theme of sin and guilt in the novel? Which seems better, according to the novel - public shame or private guilt? 75 words min.

Finally, write a one-sentence thesis statement that you could use to write a literary analysis essay on this topic. Be sure to focus your thesis on the novel.

# Understanding <u>The Scarlet Letter</u> Technique – Symbolism

A symbol is something that represents itself and something other than itself. The Scarlet Letter is full of
symbols, but the most obvious ones are the colors red and black. Determine what the colors red and black
represent, based on evidence from the novel (HINT: look in the first chapter). Then make a double-entry diary
of every red or black object in the novel and determine how that object functions symbolically.
What do the black things symbolize?
What do the red things symbolize?