**Summer Reading Assignment**

**Incoming English II Honors: Grade 10**

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| **Summer****Reading****Title** | *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne  |
| **Assignments** | 1. Read the novel *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne (1850).
2. As you read, complete a Response Log. A response log is an effective way to keep a record of your reading responses (positive or negative, sure or unsure). It offers a chance to respond personally, to ask questions, to wonder, to predict, or to reflect on the characters, people, events, literary elements, writing techniques, or language of a text. Do not summarize! Instead, record your textual observations. **You need to have 10 responses**.

Your response log must have two columns. Title the column on the left “Quotations from the Text.” Title the column on the right “Commentary/Responses to the Text.”  Commentary/Responses may start:  *“The imagery reveals…* *“The setting gives the effect of…”* *“The author seems to feel…”* *“The tone of this part is…”* Please note that these are just examples, and there are a lot of other ways to go about the response log.  **Example**:

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| **Quotations from Text** | **Commentary/Responses to Text** |
| “‘He might have hurt me a little,’ Atticus conceded, ‘but son, you’ll understand folks a little better when you’re older. A mob’s always made up of people, no matter what. Mr. Cunningham was part of a mob last night, but he was still a man…So, it took an eight-yearold child to bring ‘em to their senses didn’t it?’” (159-160)  | The tone here is matter-of-fact. Atticus admits that Mr. Cunningham could have harmed him, but he explains that Mr. Cunningham’s actions were not entirely his own; he was influenced by the crowd as is common for many people. It takes Scout recognizing him and talking to him to make Mr. Cunningham realize that what he is doing is wrong.  |

1. “While the term “Puritanical” simply means “of, relating to, or characterized by rigid morality1,” the term carries a negative connotation: “Strict, straight laced, and unsmiling, someone who is puritanical follows moral or religious rules to the letter. Describing someone as puritanical is usually a bit of a criticism, since the word implies that the person is...overly rigid in his or her beliefs and not a lot of fun to be around2.”

Find an article with a modern example of Puritanical beliefs or attitudes. Using this article as the backdrop, connect this story to a character, event, or theme from the novel. Provide a copy of the article and at least two paragraphs explaining how the behavior in the article is “Puritanical” and the connection between the article and the novel.  1. “Puritanical, *adjective*.” *Merriam-Webster,* 2025, www.merriam-

webster.com/dictionary/puritanical. 1. “Puritanical.” *Vocabulary.com*, 2025, www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/puritanical.
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| **Questions?** | If you have any questions, be sure to email carnett@geneva304.org or dhowle@geneva304.org.  |
| **Due Date** | All assignments should be completed and/or ready to be turned in on the first day of class in the fall. Be prepared for discussion and/or testing over the novel and activities during the first days. |