

N. Hawthorne

“Young Goodman Brown” p. 1463

1. What is significant regarding the setting and time as the story opens?
2. In what ways is Young Goodman Brown portrayed?
Locate his epiphany moment. What type of psychological transformation does he undergo?
3. What type of conflict does Hawthorne utilize in this story?
4. At what point did you realize the role of the antagonist?
How does his characterization further the plot?
5. What is the function of Faith’s characterization and clothing in the story?
Why should the color of her ribbons in her cap be pink?
6. How would the story be different if Hawthorne eliminated the last three paragraphs? What purpose do they serve?
7. Is Hawthorne defending his own ancestor— or condemning him?*

*Nathaniel Hawthorne is a descendant of one of the last judges who convicted “witches” during the Salem hysteria in early American history.

discussion

Edgar Allan Poe

“The Cask of Amontillado” p. 186

1. What characteristics imply the narrator may be insane?
In contrast, what shows he may not be insane?
2. Can you trust the protagonist’s details of events?
3. A crucial element in the story is Montresor’s family crest. In what manner do the elements which make up its design appear important to the plot?
4. What are the “thousands of injuries” which the protagonist mentions?
5. What is ironic about the last statement? What other ironic devices emerge from the text upon closer inspection?
6. How much are Montresor and Fortunato similar/different in characteristics?

“The Tell-Tale Heart” p. 319

1. Is the protagonist male or female? What characteristics define your theory?
2. Why is the point of view crucial to this story?
3. What is the relationship between the old man and the narrator?
4. What characteristics define the narrator as sane or insane?
Is this narrator reliable source of information?
5. Compare this tale with “The Cask of Amontillado”.
How are the motivations of the narrators different from one another?
In what manner do the antagonists provoke the individual protagonists?
How are the plots similar?

discussion