

Honors English 200

Summer Reading

You will be reading *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne over the summer. It is a very challenging novel and it requires a great deal of time and effort. Here is some advice that may help you with the novel.

1. Do some research on the Puritans. Who were they? Where did they come from? Why did they leave their homeland? For the most part, where did they settle? What was life like for a Puritan? How did Puritans treat their children? Know the answer to all of these questions.
2. Make sure you read and comprehend “The Custom House” at the beginning of the book. You must read it very carefully and may have to read it more than once.
3. Keep track of the main characters in the novel. Take notes as you read as to what occurs in each chapter.
4. Make sure to look up the word ignominy! Also, be sure to look up any other complicated words. Hawthorne had an extensive vocabulary and tends to ramble a bit.
5. There will be a comprehensive, short answer quiz on the novel when you return (on the first or second day of school). Make sure you bring the book to class.
6. Be aware that Honors English 200 is a great deal of work. Have a relaxing and fun summer, and come ready to work hard in September! See you in the fall!

Ms. DeMatteo