



## Symbolism in Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*: An Textual Approach

Mariwan Hasan<sup>[a],\*</sup>; Sozyar Mustafa<sup>[b]</sup>; Zahraa Abdulrazzaq<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>[a]</sup>Lecturer in Sulaimani University, Sulaimani, Iraq.

<sup>[b]</sup>Independent author.

\* Corresponding author.

Received 2 February 2022; accepted 20 February 2022

Published online 26 February 2022

### Abstract

Throughout this research paper, we try to indicate the significance of symbolism in Nathaniel Hawthorne's great novel *The Scarlet Letter* but before we dug deep into it, we explain some of the great events that happened in the 19<sup>th</sup> century in America and talk about how and by what American literature was influenced, as well as some major events that affected the Americans. We try to solve the deeper problem of symbolism and why it was used in that novel by Hawthorne, the background of symbolism and its origins. We answer some questions that are related to the American society in the 19th century and of course, we give literature and the literary world a great attention as well as explain what novel is, and finally talk about the masterpiece of Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*. Analytical and textual approaches are used in the research.

**Key words:** Symbolism; The scarlet letter; Confession; Religion; Christianity

Hasan, M., Mustafa, S., & Abdulrazzaq, Z. (2022). Symbolism in Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*: An Textual Approach. *Studies in Literature and Language*, 24(1), 51-57. Available from: <http://www.cscanada.net/index.php/sll/article/view/12464>  
 DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3968/12464>

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Social Life in America in the 19th Century

Throughout its history, America has seen gradual improvements within the domestic and social lives of its citizens. Within the early years of the American Republic,

the political ideals of the Revolution had spread the daily lives of USA citizens, affirming and reworking the country and its people within the process.

Fast developments in agriculture, encouraged by a robust sense of dignity in work and a bold new spirit of ingenuity sharply reduced the share of individuals who made their living within the fields, the tone of spiritual tolerance haunted by the founders clarified itself in an enthusiastic yet diverse spiritual community, working and educated citizens alike attended intellectual lectures together in an attempt to become responsible and informed citizens; and therefore the family dynamic underwent a profound transformation, especially because it involved children, at the hands of a replacement democratic idealism.

In the year 1800, the US was a newborn nation. By the time the century ended it had expanded westward exponentially, stamped its imprint because of the main power within the occident, revolutionized its economy from agriculture to manufacturing, and suffered the schism of a war that almost brought the state as conceived by our forefathers to an end. (Novotny)

During its history, America has seen incremental improvements in the domestic and social lives of its citizens, the most important 19th-century events in America were;

The Louisiana Purchase, the War of 1812, the Monroe Doctrine, Jacksonian Democracy, Abolition, the war with Mexico, the war, the economic Revolution, the closing of the frontier, and the Spanish-American War.

The Louisiana Purchase: purchased from Napoleon (leader of France) by (Thomas Jefferson) this purchase allowed America to nearly double in size.

The War of 1812 was a French-British conflict that got the United States involved. The end of the war brought changes to America, Nationalism grew and the federalist party came to an end.

The Monroe Doctrine was a United States policy that rejected European colonialism in the Americas and it had

a long-lasting effect on the foreign policy of the United States.

The emergence of Jacksonian democracy was one of the most influential aspects of the early 19th century which was the birth of modern American political culture.

Jacksonian policies put an end to the bank of the United States, expanded westward and removed American Indians from the southeast.

The Abolition movement was another manoeuvre that organized an effort to end the practice of slavery in the United States.

The Mexican–American War was an armed conflict between the United States and Mexico that changed the slavery debate.

The American Civil War was a civil war in the United States from 1861 to 1865 that began as a result of the unresolved controversy of the enslavement of black people in the southern states. It resulted in the freedom of more than four million enslaved Americans and created a stronger and centralized federal government.

The Industrial Revolution was a change in the manufacturing processes and machines that transformed the lives of so many people in the U.S. It was a transition in technology, socio-economic and cultural aspects as well as manufacturing machines.

The closing of the frontier: in 1890, the Census Bureau broadcast the closure of the frontier, in the west there were no apparent tracts of land without settlers, this news was prominent event in American history.

In 1898 the U.S and Spain conflicted a war that put an end to Spanish colonial rule in the Americas and emanated in the U.S. acquisition of the territories within the western Pacific and Latin America.

(Important Events in America during the 19th Century Timeline)

## 1.2 American Literature in the 19th Century

When America was just a group of colonies scattered along the eastern seaboard of the North American continent for ages, a successful rebellion against the motherland took place and America became The United States of America.

In its earliest days, during the 1600s, American literature consisted mostly of practical non-fiction, written by British settlers who populated the colonies that later on became The United States.

By the first decades of the 19th century, native American literature began to emerge.

“The short stories and novels published from the 1800s through the 1820s began to portrait American society and explore the American landscape in an outstanding manner” (Dickstein)

Two very important periods of American literature in the 19th century were The Romantic period (1830 to 1870) and Realism and Naturalism that lasted till the beginning of the 20th century (1870 to 1920).

After the American Revolution and after the war of 1812, American writers were inspired to create a literature that was truly native to themselves. Four authors appeared during that time who were the highlight of literature; William Cullen Bryant, Washington Irving, James Fenimore Cooper and Edgar Allan Poe, whose works inaugurated a great half-century of literary development. (Britannica)

Washington Irving published a set of short stories and essays. James Fenimore Cooper wrote adventure novels talking about the frontiersman Natty Bumppo. Edgar Allan Poe began writing short stories that explored previously hidden levels of human psychology and pushed the boundaries of fiction towards mystery and fantasy.

(Dickstein)

Hawthorne, Melville and Whitman began publishing novels, short stories, and poetry within the Romantic period that became a number of the foremost enduring and lasting works of yankee literature. During the 1850s, because the US headed toward war, more stories by and about enslaved and free African Americans were written. (Dickstein)

## 1.3 Introduction

Here, we discuss literature specifically and its genres generally. The novel takes an adequate place in literature, and our main topic is itself about a novel, therefore we explain with details what novel is according to some novelists and some literary writers, then finally what we believe the novel is. We then move to talk about American novels and how they developed and became one of the widest genres in the 19th century. Lastly, we talk about Nathaniel Hawthorne's writing of *The Scarlet Letter*, a short introduction about his life, his struggles as a writer, and how he wrote *The Scarlet Letter*, under what circumstance, what was his reason and inspiration for writing such a novel.

## 1.4 Literature and the Literary World

Literature is a written work considered of superior artistic merit and the word literature refers to those imaginative works of poetry and prose that are prominent by the intentions of their authors and the perceived aesthetic of their fulfilment.

Classifying literature is consistent with a special system including language, national origin, period, genre, and material.

If you want a historical treatment of different types of literature within geographical regions, look at some articles such as African literature, African theatre, Oceanic literature, Western literature, Central Asian arts, South Asian arts, and Southeast Asian arts.

Some literary works are dealt with separately by language, by nation, or by special subject (e.g. The Arabic literature, Celtic literature, Latin literature, French literature, Japanese literature, and biblical literature).

The word literature definition tends to be circular. The 11th edition of Merriam Webster's collegiate dictionary rate literature to be —writings having excellence of form or expression and expressing ideas of permanent or universal interest. The 19th-century critic Walter Pater mentioned that —the matter of imaginative or artistic literature as a —transcript, not of mere fact, but the fact in its infinitely varied forms. But such definitions think that the reader already knows what literature is. And its central meaning, at least, is obvious enough. Deriving from the Latin word *littera*, —a letter of the alphabet literature is first and before everything humankind's entire body of writing; Then it is the body of writing belonging to a given language or people; then it's individual pieces of writing.

But anyway it's necessary to qualify these statements. Using the word writing when describing the literature is itself unclear, for one may speak of —oral literature or —the literature of preliterate peoples. The art of literature is not reducible to the words on the page, they are there alone because of the craft of writing. As an art, literature could be described as the organization of words to give pleasure. Yet through words, literature raises and transforms experience beyond —mere pleasure. Literature likewise functions more broadly in society as a way of both criticizing and affirming cultural values. (Rexroth)

### 1.5 What Is Novel?

The novel, an invented prose narrative of considerable length and a particular complexity that deals imaginatively with human experience, usually through a sequence of events involving a gaggle of individuals in a specific setting. Within its broad framework, the genre of the novel has encompassed a large range of types and styles: picaresque, epistolary, Gothic, romantic, realist, historical—to name only some of the more important ones.

The novel may be a genre of fiction, and fiction could be defined because of the art or craft of contriving, through the word, representations of human life that instruct or divert or both. The different forms that fiction may take are best seen less as several separate categories than as a continuum or more accurately, a cline, with some brief form because of the anecdote at one end of the size and therefore the longest conceivable novel at the opposite. When a piece of fiction is long enough to constitute a whole book, as opposed to a mere part of a book, then it may be said to have achieved novel hood. But this state admits of its quantitative categories so that a comparatively brief novel could also be termed a novella (or if the insubstantiality of the content matches its brevity, a novelette), and a long novel may overflow the banks of one volume and become a roman-fleuve, or river novel. Length is extremely one among the size of the genre. (Burgess).

Generally speaking about the novel, we are- willingly or unwillingly-accepting the idea that genre has quite a theoretical reality. Just then, we should offer a description of that genre to say what a novel is and what distinguishes it from other forms of prose fiction. Yet students of literature -and even so eminent a witness as E. M. Forster- seems to be uneasy with any definition of the novel more elaborate than the formulae familiar to authors of literary works. The novel, consistent with such handbooks, is a fictional narrative in prose, of substantial length" (Stevick, p.13)

We believe that a novel is the best and most important literary work to showcase the mindset, imagination and personality of its writer. If you look deeply into the theme, the characters and the plot of a novel, you may know the writer pretty well. Writers, without realising, write themselves into their work and tell a lot about themselves. So the novel is the greatest masterpiece of a human's head that turns a blank page into dozens of books.

### 1.6 American Novel in the 19th Century

In the 19th century, the novel became the assented form of western literature and it produced many works that were considered as milestones in the form of development.

American novels were mentioned to be romance in the 19th century. James Fenimore Cooper's famous novel *The Last of the Mohicans*, Nathaniel Hawthorne's *Scarlet Letter*, and Herman Melville's *Moby-Dick*, all belong to the mentioned category.

A transition towards realism occurred in the last decades of the century. *Adventure of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain is a comeback of the picaresque novel, in the Mississippi River setting it is romance, but shifts to realism when it satirically attacks religious hypocrisy and racial persecution.

Henry James by the end of the century included all his imagination and works of his psychological observations into his novels that became greatly famous which were *The Portrait of a Lady*, *The Spoils of Poynton* and *The Ambassadors*.

These novels were in a very properly written form, experimental perspective of the writer and unique style of writing, this is why they are all masterpieces of realism and superior examples of the novel as a literary genre.

The study of nineteenth-century American novels is a highly effective effort, one that looks different in 2018 than it did fifty, twenty, or even ten years before now. The place that contains the texts such as *Faroo's True Love* or Melville's *Moby-Dick* assume in different cultural contexts and people's modes of reading shift and evolve together and the scholarship of nineteenth-century American novels had a participation in this process (Gerhardt, p.8).

While it is true that some ways of inquiry, established critical categories, and a core set of primary texts of the

nineteenth century have remained the same in the field, transformations in reading skills, theoretical proclivities, and scholarship have also fundamentally changed how we look at the novel as a cultural practice. And of course, the dynamics between recognized and the latest methods and materials add to the historical dimension of literary studies (Gerhardt, p.8).

### 1.7 Nathaniel Hawthorne's Writing of *The Scarlet Letter*

Nathaniel's family had lived in Salem, Massachusetts, since the 1600s. Nathaniel himself was born in 1804 as the only son of his parents who had two daughters. His father died when he was 4 years old, as a result, he and his family were forced to move in with Mrs Hawthorne's relatives, The Mannings. Nathaniel grew up in the company of women and had no male role model in his early life, maybe this is why, in his book *The Scarlet Letter*, Mistress Prynne has all the strength and power to make it all alone until the very end, all he had was female role models, and perhaps strong female role models. (Britannica).

Nathaniel was a writer but struggled deeply to make a living out of his written works, that is why he worked as a customs officer in Boston and served as US consul in Liverpool (Britannica).

Many of Hawthorne's written works focus on New England, including many works that have moral metaphors with an anti-Puritan inspiration. His fiction works are considered to be a part of the Romantic Movement, especially dark romanticism. His themes often centre on the natural evil and sin of humanity, and his works often have moral messages and deep psychological complexity. Nathaniel's published works include short stories, novels, and biography he wrote about his college friend Franklin Pierce, the 14th President of the United States (The Atlantic).

When Hawthorne graduated from university, he said the following words "I do not want to be a doctor and live by men's disease, not a minister to live by their sins, nor a lawyer to live by their quarrels. So, I don't see that there is anything left for me but to be an author".

He once describes words as the following "Words - so innocent and powerless as they are, as standing in a dictionary, how potent for good and evil they become in the hands of one who knows how to combine them". He was indeed a true and powerful writer and combined words very beautifully.

Hawthorne started writing *The Scarlet Letter* in September of 1849 and finished it in February of 1850 which took him only five months to write. He calls his *Scarlet Letter* a—Psychological romance that conducts the conflict between emotions and intellect (Britannica).

*The Scarlet Letter* is considered a masterwork of American literature and a classic virtuous or moral study. This novel has a great dramatic force that depends entirely

on the mental states of the characters and their relations to one another, —relations of shame— relations between oppressed and the guilty ones (Thrift books).

In *The Scarlet Letter*, the writer criticizes the life and hypocrisy of the puritan community. —Hawthorne tries to explain that back then in the stiff and stubborn society, many humans were wrongfully sentenced and blamed for all types of sin. However, his characters, Dimmesdale and Hester show that staying hidden and suffering in silence is worse than being publicly humiliated and shunned (CourseHero).

His reason for writing such a story was to show the true face of the puritans, and how individuals can be separated from society for a simple reason or mistake or even asin.

---

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Symbolism is the use of symbols to represent ideas or qualities. The most important part of a written work, especially a novel, is the writer's imagination and works of imagery in his or her novel, and through imagination the role of symbols and its significance comes in. Symbolism in Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter* is one of the most highly regarded forms of literature and symbolism in general.

Both Ali Mohammed and Salam Yahya suggested that Hawthorne presents his attitude toward the Puritan and their rigid and strict society in *The Scarlet Letter* novel. They said that "Hawthorne used a lot of symbols, in order to introduce his views of 42 motionless and severe Puritans in opposition to the sensibility and kind-hearted nature of Hester whom, it seems, he supports".

They also think that Symbolism in writing is the depth and shrouded significance in a bit of work and it is usually used to speak to a good or religious conviction or worth. (Mohammed and Yahya, p.26).

In Nan Lei's research, A Brief Study on the Symbolic Meaning of the Main characters' names in *The Scarlet Letter*, mentions that Nathaniel Hawthorne is labelled a great romantic novelist in American literature in the 19th century and a role model in the American renaissance, he is also an amazing writer for his skillful employment of symbolism and powerful psychological view.

Nan Lei continues to describe the employment of symbolism in Hawthorne's masterpiece through the analysis of the symbolic meaning of the main character's name in this great novel (Nan, p.2).

Dan Zheng refers to the symbolic reading of *The Scarlet Letter* by saying that it helps readers understand more about the characters and the society they live in, and also Dan Zheng mentioned that Hawthorne totally deserved "the prophet of symbolism" title and that *The Scarlet Letter* by breaking the literary standards of its time, comes to be the most significant written work in the written world (Zheng, p.380).



A research paper by Yuan Wenliang about the symbolism in *The Scarlet Letter* mentions that the novel *The Scarlet Letter* is Hawthorne's most remarkable masterpiece, Nathaniel Hawthorne was influenced by three thoughts. First the Puritan consciousness, second, the transcendental philosophy and third transcendentalism.

It also tells that Hawthorne uses symbolism perfectly to reinforce the artistic effects of his work (Wenliang).

The general opinion on Nathaniel Hawthorne's masterpiece is its uniqueness in using symbols to tell the story. Many researches are done on symbolism of *The Scarlet Letter*; but what distinguishes our research from those made, is mentioning the significance of symbolism in *The Scarlet Letter*, why was symbolism used, how effective it was, the background of symbolism and its origin. Despite talking about those major points about symbolism, our research paper includes mentioning and highlighting some of the major events that happened in the 19th century in America and linking it back to the reason behind using symbolism and its significance in *The Scarlet Letter*.

## 2.1 Symbolism and Its Origin

Symbolism is a literary device that can be used to describe any form of emotion or expression which indirectly refers to something instead of referring to it directly through the medium of something else. Stéphane Mallarmé described symbolism as the art of—evoking an object little by little so as to reveal a mood or, conversely, the art of choosing an object and extracting from it an “*état d'ame*” (Oeuvres Complètes, p.869).

For example, the letter A used in *The Scarlet Letter* symbolizes the adultery that the protagonist Hyster Prynne was involved in. That letter was used as a sign of shame and for Hester Prynne to be publicly shamed for what she did. Human beings have used symbols a long time ago among a wide range of literary devices in literature, for instance, cave paintings and hieroglyphics are the earliest recorded forms of human storytelling and are actually literally symbols representing more elaborate anecdotes or beliefs. (Chadwick, p.2).

The basis for much of today's narrative art forms is ancient Greek theatre that used symbolic aids including phallic objects to represent Dionysus, the god of fertility.

Throughout the middle ages, symbolism almost always was used with religious implications and then, from the Renaissance onward, it returned to literary works in full strength to represent human desires varying from lust, ambition and heartbreak. (MasterClass)

William Shakespeare for instance used symbols to represent internal morals (think of blood in Macbeth); Edgar Allan Poe used symbols to denounce dread and death (Think of the eponymous bird in -The Raven!), and William Blake as in -The Everlasting Gospel used

religious symbols (including Jesus himself) to represent human emotion and desire. (MasterClass)

The word symbolism composed of symbol plus -ism was applied to arts by 1866 as a movement in French literature and Jean Moréas was its inventor.

At first, symbolism developed as a French literary movement in the 17th century, earning popular credence with publication in 1886 of Jean Moreas' manifesto in *Le Figaro*.

And as a reaction against the rationalism and materialism that had come to control western European culture, Moréas announced the validity of clear subjectivity and the expression of an idea toward a realistic description of the natural world (Myers).

## 2.2 Symbolism in *The Scarlet Letter*

Symbols play a very big role in *The Scarlet Letter*. It covers most of the story and the reason behind this is that the puritans viewed the world through allegory and they hardly ever admitted their mistakes and saw everything in the world as their own property, especially women. Having seen all these in his early life as a child, Hawthorne tries to put into words the reality of puritanism through symbols in his novel.

The *Scarlet Letter* is a book full of symbols. First, we have the prison door which symbolizes punishment, cruel harshness and is a literal entryway into the deep world of the Puritan. The rose bush symbolizes Hester's beauty, wildness and ability to survive, it's associated with Pearl linking her to vibrant liveliness. It also refers to the hope in the darkness of the prison. The *Scarlet Letter* A, which stands for adultery, marks Hester's sin and shame worn on her chest, but at the end of the book, it changes to a badge of honour and a powerful force for determining identity. The colour red refers to love, sin, passion and vibrancy. It's the colour of the actual *Scarlet Letter*. And Hester often dresses Pearl in red. The scaffold represents guilt, public confession and punishment for crime or sin and shame.

Furthermore, we have shadow and sunlight. The shadow is a symbol for secrecy, absence of love and lack of truth and is linked to the night. Dimmesdale stands in the shadow with the governor's gardener as he conceals his sin and the act of adultery is also made in shadow which means at night.

However the sunlight means the illumination that symbolizes God's grace and love, Hester stands in the sunlight revealing her sin to the public, it also means acceptance.

Physical appearance is a crucial symbol, Hester is beautiful and vibrant at the beginning of the book but as time passes Hester looks fading, and her spirit loses some of her beauty. For Dimmesdale, he is dragged by guilt and he is wasted by sickness.

Chillingworth's shape and body symbolizes his twisted soul, the outer shell represents the inner corruption.

The characters' names are also symbols. Pearl's name is an illusion to the parable of the pearl founded by Mathew, Chillingworth's name suggests his icy core. And Dimmesdale's name suggests the faith that he will experience. The black man is a symbol for Satan, the pure evil. And finally, the forest has two meanings, a moral wilderness and a loving embrace of nature (Howthorne, p.16).

In the first chapter of the scarlet letter, some landmarks symbolize the Puritan society and culture. Those landmarks are the prison and the burial ground, they refer to the practical necessities of the society and images of punishment that are dominant in the culture (Van Kirk, p.16).

Throughout the first chapter of the story nature plays a big and gloomy role that symbolizes God and his beauty, faith and mercy "the deep heart of nature", "some sweet moral blossom". Maybe God looks more tenderly and mercifully than the Puritan community looks at Hester and her Pearl (Van Kirk, p.16).

From what we have analyzed from this novel, sinfulness, punishment and prison are all symbols of the reality of men's nature. However morality, death and cemetery are all symbols of destiny.

The second chapter of the novel contains physical symbols. Pearl symbolizes Hester's sin and is a symbol for her act of love that is viewed as adultery in the community, just like Hester says in the novel "God gave me the child, in place of all the other things I have lost! She is both my punishment and my reward". Hence the letter A that was attached to Hester's chest is also a physical symbol of Hester's act of adultery. But later on in the story, that letter becomes a huge part of Pearl's life that she can not bear without it. Since Pearl was the product of an act of love, she was also a product that went against the society's (the Puritans) rules. Therefore as Pearl grows up, she is different and is against most of the society's rules, and is a fearless soul.

Throughout chapter three and four, we realize what each character's personality stands for. Through Dimmesdale's speech to Hester, it becomes clear that his personality symbolizes empathy, guilt, and morality. And when Chillingworth visits Hester's prison cell and sits down and talks to her, his intentions show that although he is a man of scholar, he so eagerly wants to take his revenge from Hester's lover.

As events fold, Hester becomes a living symbol of sin to the townspeople, who view her not as an individual but as the embodiment of evil in the world. The writer Hawthorne, so ironically placed Hester's home between the town and the wilderness to symbolize that she did something that the community views as sin but that same thing was an act of love and came from her nature of being a human. Hawthorne writes —as the figure, the body, the reality of sin to indicate her place in society. (Van Kirk 27)

Susan Van Kirk mentions that —The theme of public and private disclosure that so greatly marked Dimmesdale's speech, this time the scarlet A on Hester's clothing is associated with the theme. Whereas publicly the letter inflicts scorn on Hester, it also endows her with a new, private sense of others' own sinful thoughts and behaviorl.

The sixth chapter referred to Pearl both as a character and as a symbol. Pearl is a troublesome and almost a careless child, whose uncontrollable nature reflects the sinful passion that led to her birth. Pearl's character is closely tied to her birth, which justifies and makes the —otherworldlinessl about her vital. She may be a product and arepresentation of the act of adultery, an act of love, an act of passion, a sin, and a crime. (Van Kirk 30)

Pearl goes against both the Church and the state in saying that her mother plucked her from the wild roses that grew by the prison door, and symbolizes her rebellious mother when she doesn't confess the name of her lover and decides to take in whatever the community has for her. (Van Kirk 36)

The brook, on the other hand, symbolizes the slackness of Pearl and it stands as a separation between Dimmesdale and Hester with Pearl as they are on opposite sides but they are also tight together. The brook is the boundary between two worlds and thou can never meet Pearl again. Pearl resembles the brook, and as much as the current of her life gushed from the wellspring as mysteriously, and had flowed through the scenes shadowed as heavily with gloom.

---

### 3. CONCLUSION

Nathaniel Hawthorne had a unique writing style that was unlike any other writer of his time. His imagination and the way he formed symbols was extraordinary and was perfectly done. Throughout his novel, Hawthorne tries to put into perspective and present images of the cruel and harsh society of the puritans. In our final analysis of *The Scarlet Letter* we conclude that it talks about the sinful nature of human beings, how people treat the sinful person and how God does, and love on the other hand, was mentioned in its perfect image throughout the novel. We believe that in the novel there is no one to blame, Hester and Dimmesdale did the sin as a result of love and the only reason that Chillingworth became a twisted soul was the absence of love and caring.

Additionally, some great events that took place in the 19th century in America affected the literary world. The American civil war and the Industrial revolution were two of the many events that happened and affected the social life in America that made the country expand westward, stamp its imprint because of the main power in the West, revolutionize its economy from agriculture to manufacturing, and made it suffer the schism of a war by the end of the century.

To conclude this research paper and in our final analysis of *The Scarlet Letter*, the art of symbolism used

by Hawthorne in this novel is one of the greatest works ever written. Symbols almost fully cover the whole story and play a big role in showing the true side of the puritans, the character's feelings and the linking of events to humanpsychological state and mental being.

## REFERENCES

- "Is *The Scarlet Letter* a true story?" *eNotes Editorial*, 21 Sep. 2020, Retrieved from <https://www.enotes.com/homework-help/is-the-scarlet-letter-a-true-story-> Accessed 29 Apr. 2021.
- "Library guides: American social history by eras and decades: 19th century America." *19th Century America - American Social History by Eras and Decades Library Guides at Penn State University*. 27 Aug. 2020. Web. 30 Apr. 2021. Retrieved from <https://guides.libraries.psu.edu/c.php?g=339878&p=2287722>.
- Barzinji, M. (2012). *The image of modern man in T. S. Eliot's poetry*. Bloomington, IN: AuthorHouse.
- Barzinji, M. (2013). Modernism, modernity and modernisation. *Research on Humanities and Social Sciences*, 3(12), 43-52.
- Barzinji, M. (2015). *Modernism: a critical introduction*. Saarbrücken: Lambert Academic Publishing.
- Barzinji, M. (2016). The function of epigraphs to T. S. Eliot's poetry. *Research on Humanities and Social Sciences*, 6(9), 27-40.
- Barzinji, M., & Ol'Ga Mikhailovna, U. (2020). Lilacs and hyacinths: Two symbols of sadness in T. S. Eliot's "the waste land". *Philological Class*, 25(3), 172-81.
- Barznji, M. N., & Berzenji, L. S. (2017). *TS Eliot: Critical essays*. IN: Bloomington, AuthorHouse,.
- Blair, W., Giles, J. R., & Dickstein, M. (2020). American literature. *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 24 Jul.
- Britannica (2002). The Editors of Encyclopedia. "Nathaniel Hawthorne". *EncyclopediaBritannica*, 7 Jan. Web.
- Chadwick, C. (2017). *Symbolism*, 15. Taylor & Francis.
- Gerhardt, C. (Ed.) (2018). *Handbook of the American novel of the nineteenth century* (Vol.7). Walter de Gruyter GmbH & Co KG.
- Hasan, M, Lava, M., & Gashbin, B. (2020). Abuse practice of power in Orwell's Animal Farm: A historical approach. *Journal of Culture, Arts, Literature, and Linguistics*, 6(1), 1-16.
- Hasan, M. (2015). The eighteenth century and the rise of the English novel. *International Journal of Literature and Arts*, 3(2), 18-21.
- Hasan, M. (2016). The rise of modernism: A new history of western modernism. *Journal of Kirkuk University Humanity Studies*, 11(1), 1-42.
- Hasan, M. (2019). A thematic investigation into T.S Eliot's "The Hollow Men": With reference to textual approach. *Critical Literary Studies*, 1(2), 159-184.
- Hasan, M. (2019). The explication of mythology and ecology in Eliot's "the waste land". *Studies in Literature and Language*, 19(1), 30-36.
- Hasan, M. (2019). Values of women as related to culture and society. *Cross-Cultural Communication*, 15(4), 35-39.
- Hasan, M. (2019).The explication of mythology and ecology in Eliot's *The Waste Land*. *Studies in Literature and Language*, 19(1), 30-36.
- Hasan, M. (2020). Review of George Orwell's *Animal Farm*. *International Journal of Educational Theory and Practice*, 18-21.
- Hasan, M. N., & Hussein, S. A. (2015). The hurdles in front of women in expressing their voice in Eliot's "The Waste Land". *International Journal of Literature and Arts*, 3(6), 171-175.
- Hasan, M. N., & Hussein, S. A. B. (2016). Dante's "The Divine Comedy", Eliot's "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" and Muhammed's Isra and Miraj: A Comparative Study. *International Review of Social Sciences*, 4(2), 483-486.
- Hasan, M. N., Noori, L. S., & HamaSalih, M. S. (2015). Mysticism and Sufism in T. S. Eliot's "The love song of J. Alfred Prufrock". *Research on Humanities and Social Sciences*, 5(9), 114-118.
- Hasan, M., & Shamal, H. (2015). The hurdles in front of women in expressing their voice in Eliot's *The Waste Land*. *International Journal of Literature and Arts*, 3(6), 171-175.
- Hasan, M., & Shamal, H. (2015). The hurdles in front of women in expressing their voice in Eliot's "The Waste Land". *International Journal of Literature and Arts*, 3(6), 171- 175.
- Hasan, M., Hsen, B., & Jalal, B. (2019). T.S Eliot's 'Sweeney erect' revisited. *Studies in Literature and Language*, 19(2), 101-107.
- Hasan, M., Latef, S., & Majeed, H. (2013). *Mysticism and Sufism in T.S Eliot's "the love song of J. Alfred Prufrock"*.
- Hawthorne, J. (2018). "The Scarlet Letter" by Nathaniel Hawthorne, Reviewed. *The Atlantic*. Atlantic Media Company, 16 Mar. 2018. Web.
- Kirk, S. V. (2000). Cliffs notes Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*. Foster City: IDG.
- McDonald, R. (2000). The Scarlet Letter. *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 5 May 2020, Retrieved from <https://www.britannica.com/topic/The-Scarlet-Letter-novel-by-Hawthorne>.
- Mohammed, A., & Yahya, S. (2017). *Symbolism in The Scarlet Letter*. *OSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, 22(04), 26-34
- Seven, B. (2000). Important events in America during the 19th century timeline. *Timetoast*, 18 Jan.
- Shroder, M. Z. (1963). The novel as a genre. *The Massachusetts Review*, 4(2), 291-308.
- SparkNotes. "The Scarlet Letter: Study Guide. *SparkNotes*. SparkNotes. Web.
- Yuan, W. L. (2005). Symbolism in *The Scarlet Letter*. *China Science and Technology Information*, 12B, 210-2.
- Zheng, D. (2017).An analysis of symbolism in *The Scarlet Letter*. 4th International Conference on Education, Language, Art and Intercultural Communication (ICELAIC 2017).