

Create Your Own “Scarlett Letter”

Introduction:

In Hawthorne’s *Scarlett Letter*, the letter “A” badge sewn on Hester Prynne’s chest means “Adulterer.” The first few chapters of “Letter” focus a lot on the theme of sin and the use of symbols.

Note: Symbols are objects, characters, figures, or colors used to represent abstract ideas or concepts.

Assignment:

In this activity, create your own letter badge based on whichever sin or human flaw you believe is the worst a human being can do. Be creative as to how you want to “Create” your letter. Draw it, cut it out, color it, print it out (after photoshopping it), or add glitter to it . Just keep in mind that the letter is a symbol of your sin. The letter “A” obviously is for “adulterer,” but the look of it is interesting too. As it pertains to Hester’s “A”: Why was it gold and scarlet? Why was it sewn on her chest? All of these questions you ask yourself as you create your letter based on whichever sin you choose.

When finished, write a 1-2 page essay talking about your letter by responding to the following statements/questions:

1. Why is your letter the color that it is?
2. Where must a sinner wear the letter?
3. Is it sewn on or must they wear it another way? (tattooed, branded, necklace, etc.)
4. Which famous people (dead or alive) would be issued your letter?
5. How would people react to sinners who wear your letter?
6. Compare/Contrast your letter to the letter “A” in “Letter.” What answers from the questions above are similar/different to Hester’s situation?
7. According to SparkNotes.com, the reoccurring theme of “Letter” is “whether it is ethically right to judge others.” When it comes to your sin, is it ethically right to judge them? Ask the person next to you and write down what he/she says considering your answer might be bias.

Objectives:

- Be creative and come up with your own “letter” based on a sin of your choice that you feel is the worst
- Connect your creativity to the text and find common themes/symbols based on your reading.

Grading Rubric:

Letter	10 points
<u>1-2 page essay</u>	<u>20 points</u>
Total	30 points