

Scarlet Letter Claims and Evidence

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1. Claim: In *The Scarlet Letter*, Nathaniel Hawthorne portrays the town as a failed paradisiacal society, by highlighting theoretically uncharacteristic parts of utopia, such as a large jail containing many people, a graveyard, and a dreary and judgmental people.
1. Evidence: “The founders of a new colony, whatever Utopia of human virtue and happiness they might originally project, have . . . a portion of the virgin soil as a cemetery, and another portion as the site of a prison.”
2. Claim: In *The Scarlet Letter*, Hawthorne introduces the townfolk as a homogenized, drearily-dressed group, all of whom looked and acted in the same, judgmental fashion.
2. Evidence: “A throng of bearded men, in sad-colored garments and gray, steeple-crowned hats, intermixed with women, some wearing hoods, and others bareheaded. . . .”