

### Why you should read The Scarlet Letter:

1. Although written in 1850, the story remains compelling and contemporary.
2. In addition to the thought-provoking ethical issues, the characters are engaging and memorable.
3. Hawthorne's rich use of symbolism resonates throughout the narrative.
4. Many chapters end with cliff-hangers that prompt the reader to continue reading.
5. Hawthorne's syntax is challenging at first, but ultimately rewarding.

### Why you may struggle with The Scarlet Letter:

1. Initially the syntax requires a slower, more intentional pace that demands the reader's full attention.
2. Hawthorne's description and direct address to the reader is a product of his time and seems a little heavy-handed at times.

Still interested? A few suggestions before you begin...

- If you are crunched for time, you could skip the introduction (The Custom House) and begin with chapter 1.
- Notice how suggestive the characters' names are.
- Allow your brain to adjust to Hawthorne's writing – it will get easier to read and is well-worth the energy!

Here is the full text of the novel, on-line, for FREE!

<http://www.bartleby.net/83/index.html>