

Hester Prynne's Community (Chad Behanna)

WebQuest Description: This Webquest is to help students explore the social context of Nathaniel Hawthorne's 'The Scarlet Letter' and its effect on the characters.

(Picture url: <http://www.imdb.com/media/rm2565380352/ch0022222>)

Grade Level: 9-12

Curriculum: English / Language Arts

Keywords: Scarlet Letter, Puritan Society

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WebQuest URL: <http://zunal.com/webquest.php?w=90700>

Introduction

In this Webquest, you will be taking the role of a member of the Puritan society in which Hester Prynne inhabited. At the beginning of Nathaniel Hawthorne's The Scarlet Letter, Hester Prynne stands on trial for adultery. As either a normal housewife, minister, or legal expert, you will give your opinions on her trial. (Picture: <http://endtimepilgrim.org/puritans03.htm>)

Tasks

Write a journal entry that discusses the matters of Prynne's trial from the point of view of your role. Then, along with others in the same role, create a presentation to inform the rest of the class why your role thinks as it does and why your opinions matter. The presentation can be done in the form of a powerpoint, pamphlet, prezi, glogster, etc. (Picture URL: <http://community.sparknotes.com/2009/09/11/blogging-the-scarlet-letter-index-page>)

Process

1- Select a role to assume for the duration of this activity. You can take the role of a minister, a legal expert, or a housewife in Puritanic society. 2- Search the internet for information on your role and Puritanic society in general. Remember to focus on your role, searching phrases such as 'religion in Puritanic society', 'Puritan law', and 'Puritan household'. 3- Use the information that you gather to write your role's opinion on the trial of Hester Prynne in a journal format. Use at least 5 references to your research. 4- As a group with others in the same role, put together a presentation about your role's view and ideas about Prynne and her punishment. 5- Your group will share your presentation with the class. (Picture URL: <http://121youth.wordpress.com>)

Evaluation

Category and Score	Poor	Fair	Good	Great	Score
Content of Journal Entry	Journal entry references 3 or less facts. Student did not research enough to understand the society and role.	Journal entry references less than 5 facts. Student didn't complete research, but has limited understanding.	Journal entry has 5 facts. Student completed research and has basic understanding of the society and role.	The journal entry has 5 or more facts. The student has clearly done the research asked and more and clearly understands the society and role.	30%
Grammar of Journal Entry	The journal entry has several glaring spelling and grammatical errors that make it difficult to read.	The journal entry has some distracting spelling and grammatical errors.	The journal entry has few errors that aren't distracting.	The journal entry is practically free of grammatical and spelling errors.	20%
Content of Presentation	The group clearly has no understanding of the society and role.	The group has a limited understanding of the society and role and may not connect the research and role effectively.	The group has a basic understanding of the society and role.	The group displays an exemplary understanding of the society and role and how they interact.	25%

Category and Score	Poor	Fair	Good	Great	Score
Preparation of Presentation.	Some of the students are doing nothing while others have done everything. Students are clearly improvising.	Presentation has errors that are evident to the audience. Work is likely unequal.	The group is prepared with few errors and little to no stumbling over information. The work appears equally distributed.	The group is completely prepared with almost no errors. Each group member clearly pulled their own weight.	25%
				Total Score	100%

Conclusion

With the knowledge and understanding that comes from researching and presenting the perspectives of members of Puritanic society, you will be able to understand Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter* more as we progress through the novel.

Teacher Page

This webquest is made for students that are in the American Romanticism unit of American Literature. At minimum, students should have read enough of Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter* to have read about Hester Prynne's trial.

Standards

Credits

Other