



MINISTÉRIO DA EDUCAÇÃO  
UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DO PIAUÍ – EDITAL 17/2014

Realização:



# EXAME DE PROFICIÊNCIA DE LEITURA EM LÍNGUA ESTRANGEIRA

DATA: 30/11/2014

HORÁRIO: das 8 às 11 horas

## CADERNO DE PROVA

Idioma:

**INGLÊS**

Área de Pesquisa:

**(4) LINGUÍSTICA, LETRAS E ARTES**

### LEIA ATENTAMENTE AS INSTRUÇÕES

- Esta prova é constituída de um texto técnico-científico em língua estrangeira, seguido de 5 (cinco) questões abertas relativas ao texto apresentado.
- É permitido o uso de dicionário impresso, sendo vedados trocas ou empréstimos de materiais durante a realização do Exame.
- As respostas deverão ser redigidas em português e transcritas para a **Folha de Respostas**, utilizando caneta esferográfica com **tinta preta** ou **azul, escrita grossa**.
- A Folha de Respostas** será o único documento válido para correção, não devendo, portanto, conter rasuras.
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- Nenhum candidato poderá entregar o Caderno de Prova e a Folha de Respostas antes de transcorridos 60 minutos do início do Exame.
- Em nenhuma hipótese haverá substituição da **Folha de Respostas**.
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# Hester Prynne: Sinner, Victim, Object, Winner

**March 02, 2008 5:00 PM ET**

Andrea Seabrook

<http://www.npr.org/2008/03/02/87805369/hester-prynne-sinner-victim-object-winner>

Hester Prynne, protagonist of Nathaniel Hawthorne's masterwork *The Scarlet Letter*, is among the first and most important female protagonists in American literature. She's the embodiment of deep contradictions: bad and beautiful, holy and sinful, conventional and radical.

At first glance, Hester may seem more victim than heroine. The adultery she committed when her husband was thought lost at sea leads Boston's Puritan authorities to brand her with the bright red "A" of the title. She's forced to stand in shame before the mass of Puritan citizens, enduring their stares, their whispers and their contempt. In the self-righteous eyes of the townspeople, she is the ultimate example of sin.

Hester Prynne is also the object of a cruel and shadowy love triangle between herself, her minister lover, Arthur Dimmesdale, and her husband, now called Roger Chillingworth.

"The drama is really the drama of the patriarchal society's need to control female sexuality in the most basic way," says Evan Carton, literature professor at the University of Texas, Austin. "This classic male anxiety: How do you know for sure whether your baby is yours? If you don't know if your woman and your child are actually yours, then you have no control over property, no control over social order, no control over anything — and that's the deep radical challenge that Hester presents to this society."

America was in the midst of a growing feminist movement when Hawthorne wrote *The Scarlet Letter*. Professor Jamie Barlowe, of the University of Toledo, says that Hawthorne — living in Salem, Boston and later Concord, Mass. — "was very, very aware of the growing feminist insurgence. Women's rights were a part of the cultural conversation."

The first women's-rights convention at Seneca Falls, N.Y., was held in 1848, two years before *The Scarlet Letter* was published. Strong women like Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton were gathering other women to talk about science, politics and ideas. For the first time in America, women were challenging the firmly established male patriarchy. Hester Prynne can be seen as Hawthorne's literary contemplation of what happens when women break cultural bounds and gain personal power.

## **A Survivor, and Strong**

In *The Scarlet Letter*, Hester Prynne may seem a victim and an object, but she also shows great personal strength. She survives.

Hester builds a small business doing embroidery-work. She raises her daughter, Pearl, by herself, fighting to keep her when the authorities try to take the child away. Over the years, Hester gains the respect of other women in Boston, becoming something of a quiet confidant for them.

Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist John Updike says the book still makes him cry. He describes a scene where Hester meets Dimmesdale in the forest and implores him to run away with her.

"First she throws away the scarlet letter," Updike recalls. "Then, quote, 'By another impulse, she took off the formal cap that confined her hair; and down it fell upon her shoulders, dark and rich, with at once a shadow and a light in its abundance and imparting the charm of softness to her features.'"

"How wonderful, the power of the hair," Updike says.

Updike wrote three novels of his own based on the characters of *The Scarlet Letter*; they're often called Updike's Hawthorne Trilogy. The final one, titled simply *S.*, is the story of a 20th century version of Hester Prynne. Updike says Hester is "fun to write about, because she was so irrepressible."

"She's such an arresting and slightly ambiguous figure," he says. "She's a funny mix of a truly liberated, defiantly sexual woman, but in the end a woman who accepts the penance that society imposed on her. And I don't know, I suppose she's an epitome of female predicaments."

Professor Barlowe says that how a reader feels about Hester Prynne "will have something to do with how that individual person sees women as functioning, or ways they should function."

## **A Mirror Turned on Social Norms**

So, just as Hester is a vessel for the feelings and actions of the men who surround her in the book, she's also a mirror, revealing the true feelings of the reader about the role of women in society.

At the end of her life, Hester Prynne chooses to live in Boston and to continue to wear that red letter "A" on her breast, long after she has fulfilled her punishment.



QUESTÃO 03 – Como o Professor Barlowe relaciona os sentimentos do leitor em relação à personagem e a visão desse leitor sobre a mulher? Explique essa relação considerando o subtítulo "A mirror turned on social norms".

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QUESTÃO 04 - Conforme Hawthorne, por que Hester continuou usando a Letra Escarlate mesmo após a punição ter sido cumprida? O que isso simbolizava?

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QUESTÃO 05 - Qual é a conclusão do artigo de Andrea Seabrook e de John Updike sobre a personagem Hester Prynne? Comente as contradições da personagem e qual é o "meme" que ela representa.

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