**Prompt for Theme Paper on *The Scarlet Letter*:**

Write a theme paper that explores the idea of forgiveness in *The Scarlet Letter*. Write about what the reader can learn about forgiveness in this novel. Look at what the story has to say about these two dimensions of forgiveness: seeking forgiveness and offering forgiveness; and look at both sides of these dimensions: seeking vs. not seeking forgiveness and offering vs. not offering forgiveness. Try to look at the theme from as many different angles as you can. Use specific references and quotes from the book to support your ideas and conclusions. This paper is not a book report; you should give a brief summary of the story in your introduction, but the rest of the paper should focus on forgiveness. This paper is not an essay on your beliefs about forgiveness; it is an exploration of what this story says about forgiveness.

**Requirements:**

Proper format: Introduction, body, conclusion; 2 pages of typed, double-spaced text (11 or 12 pt font), 1” margins, proper citations (when you quote or refer to a part of the book, put the pg. number on which that reference is found in parenthesis at the end of your sentence); theme paper will be worth 1 test grade (outline 25% and final draft 75%).

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