

Standards Focus: Allusions and Terminology**The Custom House: Introduction**

1. Old Manse - the name given to the home that the grandfather of Ralph Waldo Emerson built. It was later rented by Hawthorne and his wife. Later, Hawthorne wrote *Mosses From an Old Manse* which included short stories and a description of the house.
2. "P.P. Clerk of this Parish" - refers to "Memoirs of P.P., Clerk of this Parish," which parodied the long-winded, pompous autobiography of Bishop Gilbert Burnet. Hawthorne is paralleling his introduction to the literary style used in "Memoirs."
3. King Derby - Elias Hasket Derby (1739-1799), who initiated trade with the Orient from the port of Salem
4. Nova Scotia - a Canadian province located on Canada's southeastern coast; one of the first documented Scottish settlements in the Americas
5. banner of the republic...thirteen stripes turned vertically - the early American flag with 13 stars and 13 stripes
6. Uncle Sam - the national personification of the United States, popularized in the War of 1812
7. eider-down pillow - a pillow stuffed with the feathers of a sea-duck known as an Eider, found on the northern coasts of Europe and North America
8. last war with England - The American Revolutionary War with England (1775-1783)
9. mimic boats - small practice boats used for strategic planning
10. millpond - a body of water which is a result of a water-powered mill, such as a dam
11. British provinces - British-owned colonies around the world
12. Matthew - a reference to Biblical verse 9:9 in the Book of Matthew in which Jesus calls him from "the receipt of custom"
13. ship-chandler - a dealer who supplied the equipment for ships, and was also responsible for docking the ship and taking care of it while in foreign ports
14. Acts of Congress - books which contain all of the laws passed by Congress
15. Loco-foco Surveyor - "Loco-foco" initially referred to the radical wing of the Democratic Party. Whigs appropriated the term from conservative Democrats and applied it negatively toward Democrats in general and toward Hawthorne in particular
16. alms-house - houses built from charitable contributions for those who are ill, elderly, widowed, or simply cannot afford housing
17. Briton - Hawthorne, a native of England, is referring to his ancestors and others from England
18. "dust for dust" - reference to Hawthorne's inextricable relationship he had with the land and with his ancestors; the saying "for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return" is from *Genesis* in the Bible; essentially we started as dust and will return to dust
19. progenitor - a parent, grandparent, or other ancestor
20. Salemite - one who comes from Salem; a citizen of Salem, Massachusetts
21. sentry-march - a sentry is a guard at the entrance or gate of a location; sentry-march refers to the guards walking in formation
22. Whigs - an American political party that operated from 1834-1856
23. tide-waiters - men who worked on the docks and ports of different cities
24. "dyed in the wool" - traditional; the same way for generations
25. "born in the purple" - (*of unknown origin*); possibly born as royalty or acting like royalty
26. Revolutionary/Revolution - Revolutionary War against England (see #8)
27. fourscore - the number 80 (80 years ago)
28. Mother Nature - the personification of nature; also called Mother Earth
29. balustrade - a railing with closely spaced supports
30. Ticonderoga - a New York fort captured from the British by American forces led by Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold
31. Chippewa - a native North American tribe
32. Fort Erie - site along the Niagara frontier where American forces won important victories in the War of 1812
33. philanthropists - charitable persons who donate much of their time, money, or talent
34. Niagara - the Native American name of a waterfall in the eastern part of the north coast of the United States
35. Providence - refers to God, fate
36. Brook Farm - the experimental Utopian society that Hawthorne and other members of the Transcendentalist movement were a part of; the community turned away from the industrialized and materialistic society that was growing around them and focused on self reliance and cooperation; the basis for Hawthorne's novel *The Blithedale Romance*
37. Emerson - Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882); a famous writer and founding member of the Transcendentalists at Brook Farm. His family also owned many homes, one of which Hawthorne and his family lived in for three years.
38. Assabeth - a river in Concord, Massachusetts
39. Ellery Channing - William Ellery Channing (1818-1901); a young poet who stayed briefly at Brook Farm at the same time Hawthorne was there.
40. Thoreau - Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862); a Transcendentalist writer, famous for *Walden* (see #41)
41. Walden - (1854) a non-fiction book about Henry David Thoreau's experience while living in a self-built cabin on the shore of Walden Pond outside of Concord, Massachusetts

42. Longfellow - Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882); Hawthorne's former classmate at Bowdoin College; famous for his great American poetry and for writing the first American translation of Dante's *Divine Comedy*
43. Hillard - George Stillman Hillard (1808-1879); a lawyer from Boston who offered political and financial aid to Hawthorne
44. Alcott - Amos Bronson Alcott (1799-1888); the father of famous writer, Louisa May Alcott; a philosopher and teacher who is best remembered for founding his own Utopian community called "Fruitlands"
45. Burns - Robert Burns (1759-1796); a poet and lyricist from Scotland who also served briefly as an excise officer in a custom house
46. Chaucer - Geoffrey Chaucer (1343-1400); a famous English writer, remembered mostly for *The Canterbury Tales*; also served as custom officer in London for many years
47. Naval Officer - an officer of the Navy who holds a position of power in which he is given direct authority by way of the governing power in place
48. Napoleon - Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821); a general during the French Revolution
49. Shakespeare - William Shakespeare (1564-1616); an English playwright and poet, thought of by most scholars as the greatest writer of the English language
50. Billy Gray - wealthy Salem sea merchant in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries
51. Simon Forrester - wealthy Salem sea merchant in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries
52. Halifax - the capital of the Canadian province of Nova Scotia
53. protectorate - a smaller sovereign state that agrees to enter a relationship with a stronger country or region in agreement for protection and aid
54. Governor (William) Shirley - colonial governor of Massachusetts from 1741-1749 and 1753-1756
55. Jonathan Pue - (?-1760); Hawthorne's early predecessor in the post of Salem Custom House surveyor.
56. Province of Massachusetts Bay - one of the first colonies in the New World
57. Felt's Annals - *The Annals of Salem from Its First Settlement*, written by Joseph B. Felt; annals are historical written records kept in chronological order
58. St. Peter's Church - reference to the church in the Vatican City where the Catholic Pope presides
59. Weigher - a person in a custom house who weighs packages/imports.
60. Gauger - an inspector in a custom house who checks the dimensions and quality of packages/imports
61. anthracite - a form of coal that is shiny and has the highest carbon content with the fewest impurities
62. General Taylor - Zachariah Taylor (1784-1850); a military general who was later elected President of the United States under the Whig party. Upon

- entering his office, he removed Hawthorne from his post at the Custom House.
63. Democrats - members of the Democratic political party
 64. Irving's Headless Horseman - a reference to *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* (1820) by Washington Irving (1783-1859). In the story, the protagonist, Ichabod Crane, is chased by the ghost of a headless horseman.

Chapter One

1. utopia - a non-existent place where the political, social, and economic systems in place are fair and just and seek to serve the best interests of the people
2. Isaac Johnson - (1803-1853); one of the first Boston settlers; upon his death he was buried on his own farm, which later became a cemetery
3. New World - the New England colonies and the rest of America that was not yet discovered
4. burdock - a vegetable plant that can be eaten or used for medicinal purposes
5. pigweed - a weedy plant that is mostly used as pig food
6. apple peru - known today as datura; a plant that can be highly poisonous and can lead to delirium if eaten
7. Ann Hutchinson - religious leader who claimed that faith, not good works, brought people closer to God; held Bible study meetings in which she proclaimed her own beliefs about Scripture and was later tried for heresy and excommunicated

Chapter Two

1. Antinomian - a religious group that believed God's laws existed in faith and not in the laws made up by the church or society
2. Quaker - a believer in the religious sect of Christianity developed in the 1700s by George Fox, who focused on the individual's relationship and growth with God
3. firewater - the Native American people's name for the "white man's" alcohol
4. Mistress Hibbins - Ann Hibbins, who was hanged in 1656 in Salem for being a witch
5. gallows - a wooden frame that is used for public hangings
6. farthingale - a slip worn under a woman's dress that gave a skirt a puffy appearance
7. "manlike" Elizabeth - reference to Queen Elizabeth I (1533-1603) and the common perception of her stern and unfeminine appearance and behavior
8. Ale - a drink similar to beer
9. far-off island - in this case, Hawthorne is referring to England
10. malefactress - one who does deliberate wrong or evil

11. magistrates - judicial officers; those who make and enforce laws
12. autumnal - past maturity; in the middle of life
13. Scripture - the Bible
14. statute-book - a book that contains the laws and regulations of a community
15. beadle - a minor church official who ushers or helps preserve order during services
16. staff of office - the symbol of a person's rank and position in the local government
17. sumptuary - a type of law that focuses on personal behavior
18. an hour past meridian - literally, an hour past the middle, or 1 o' clock
19. guillotine among the terrorists of France - reference to the French Revolution and to those who were responsible for putting many innocent people to death by way of the guillotine
20. Papist - a term, usually derogatory, that refers to followers of the Roman Catholic religion
21. Divine Maternity - a reference to the Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus, from the Bible
22. Elizabethan ruff - a neckpiece or collar made of lace, worn in the 16th and 17th centuries

Chapter Three

1. Daniel - a Biblical Prophet who interpreted dreams and received visions
2. Governor Bellingham - Richard Bellingham (1592-1672); became governor of colonial Massachusetts in 1641, removed from office in 1642 after he married his friend's fiancée, causing a scandal
3. Divine institutions - reference to the those beliefs that are held holy
4. John Wilson - a prominent opponent of Ann Hutchinson and a preacher at First Church in Boston
5. skullcap - a small cloth headcover worn by religious leaders

Chapter Four

1. savage people - Native Americans/American Indians
2. "drive Satan out of her with stripes" - "with stripes" means to whip with leather straps or cords; in this case, they mean to draw the devil out of her soul by whipping her so hard the devil cannot even handle the beating
3. draught - a drink; often referring to beer
4. "Lethe nor Nepenthe" - Lethe is one of the rivers of Hades in Greek mythology which causes anyone who enters it to forget their former life; Nepenthe was a drug from Greek mythology which was believed to help people forget their sorrows. In the context, Chillingworth cannot erase or make Hester forget the bad things that have happened to her.
5. Paracelsus - an alchemist, physician, astrologer, and occultist during 16th Century
6. "Black Man" - the devil

Chapter Five

1. Oriental - referring to the style that comes from Asia and the Mideast; beautiful and ornate decoration and detail
2. "branded the brow of Cain" - Biblical reference to the story of Cain and Abel in which Cain kills his brother and is then cursed to wander the Earth with the mark of his sin always upon him. The mark itself has many interpretations, including the form of a scar or a curse which prevents him from cultivating crops.
3. Sabbath - the day, usually Sunday, observed for God and religious worship
4. Universal Father - God

Chapter Six

1. Eden - refers to The Garden of Eden from the Bible
2. "world's first parents" - Adam and Eve from the Bible; believed to be the first humans on earth
3. Scriptural - referring to any authority or direction that comes directly out of the Bible
4. sprite - a creature from fantasy, such as an elf or fairy
5. Quakers - believers in the religious sect of Christianity developed in the 1700s by George Fox; believe that faith and belief in God do not rely on interception by religious clergy or sacraments and instead focus on the individual's relationship and growth with God
6. sham-fight - pretend fighting/battles
7. Luther - Martin Luther (1483-1546); a German monk and church reformer considered to be the founder of Protestantism

Chapter Seven

1. Aladdin - reference to a medieval Arabian story in which a poor young man named Aladdin comes into possession of a magic lamp which houses a genie that can grant him whatever he wishes
2. Chronicles of England - *The Chronicles of England, Scotland, and Ireland* (1577) written by Raphael Holinshed (?-1580) and many other contributors; a detailed account of each of the countries' geographical and historical information
3. cuirass, gorget, greaves, gauntlets - breastplate, steel collar, leg armor, and protective gloves
4. panoply - complete suit of armor
5. Pequod (also spelled Pequot) War - an armed conflict in 1637 in which New England forces and their allies battled against the Pequot tribe, killing more than 600 from the tribe.
6. Bacon, Coke, Noye, Finch - Francis Bacon, Edward Coke, William Noye, and John Finch were all famous British lawyers during the 16th and 17th centuries

7. Mr. Blackstone - one of the first British settlers to come to the New World; legend says that he planted rose bushes and apples trees

Chapter Eight

1. King James - a reference to the style of clothing worn during the reign of King James from 1566-1625. As successor of Elizabeth I, King James was of the House of Stuarts, and was ruler of England, Scotland and Ireland all at once; commissioned the *King James Version* translation of the Bible
2. John the Baptist - a Jewish preacher from the 1st century who was considered to be one of the first who recognized Jesus as the Messiah. He is said to be Jesus' cousin and the person who baptized Jesus
3. English Church - The Church of England; the Puritans revolted against The Church of England before going to the New World
4. Lord of Misrule - an official job during medieval times; a person who was responsible for keeping order; a police officer of medieval times
5. bedizen - to dress or decorate ornately
6. Catechism - the beginning stages of religious instruction for the young and for those who are new to the religion; also, a summary of the doctrine taught by the Christian faith, which is meant to be memorized or at least well known
7. Babylon - a Biblical reference to the Whore of Babylon (a city in ancient Mesopotamia) who wears purple and scarlet and was decked with precious stones such as pearls
8. pearl of great price - referring to a parable told by Jesus about Heaven
9. New England Primer - a textbook that introduced the alphabet and reading to children through pictures and Biblical rhymes
10. Westminster Catechism - a book that taught basic theology to children as well as adults
11. mountebank - a person who tricks people into buying a fake product
12. Mistress Hibbins - a non-fictional woman who was hanged in Salem for being a witch

Chapter Nine

1. Atlantic - The Atlantic Ocean, the ocean that divides England from the New World
2. Elixir of Life - a legendary potion that gives the drinker eternal life
3. European pharmacopoeia - a book that explains how to mix and compose medicines
4. Oxford - a city in England, which is also home to Oxford University, the oldest university in the English-speaking world
5. Sir Kenelm Digby - (1603-1665) famous alchemist and astrologer
6. New Jerusalem - also known as a heavenly Jerusalem; according to the Christian Bible, the earthly location where true believers of Christ will

spend all of eternity with God after the second creation of the world

7. Gobelin looms - tapestries created by the Gobelin family in the 16th Century which depicted Biblical scenes
8. David and Bathsheba; Nathan the Prophet - Biblical reference to King David, who has an affair with Bathsheba, a wife of one of his soldiers, Uriah. Nathan, a Prophet of God, spoke out against David's adultery
9. Sir Thomas Overbury (1581-1613) Doctor Forman - an English poet and essayist who was murdered for opposing the marriage of the earl of Rochester to the countess of Essex; (Forman was an old alchemist who provided the poison for Overbury's death)

Chapter Ten

1. Bunyan - John Bunyan (1628-1688), the author of *Pilgrim's Progress*, who referred to the side of a hill as the entrance to Hell
2. Holy Writ - Biblical Scripture

Chapter Eleven

1. Pentecost/Tongues of Flame - a Christian holiday in which God gave the apostles a tongue of flame that allowed them to speak in all different languages and still understand each other
2. Enoch - Biblical reference to a direct descendant of Adam and ancestor of Noah
3. penance - in some Christian churches, self punishment for sin; an act of atonement that is imposed on a person by a clergyman after their ritual confession of sins

Chapter Twelve

1. Geneva Cloak - a black cloak worn by Calvinist ministers
2. hieroglyphics - an ancient Egyptian writing system that uses symbols or pictures
3. sexton - a church caretaker

Chapter Thirteen

1. sick-chamber - a specific room in which the sick or elderly are roomed so that they can be better tended and not spread illness and disease

Chapter Fifteen

1. Hornbook - an early text that taught the alphabet by depicting each letter with a scene or character from the Bible

Chapter Sixteen

1. scrofula - a form of tuberculosis most common in children

Chapter Twenty

1. Old World - referring to Europe, or in this case, England
2. Spanish Main - what is today the Caribbean; in the 16th Century this included Florida, Mexico, Central American, and the northern coast of South America
3. Bristol - a city in southwest England
4. Election Sermon - the homily given on the day the new governor of the province is to be formally instated into office
5. weathercock - a weather vane; an object placed on the roof of a home that turns easily to see the direction of the wind
6. Paradise - Christian heaven
7. Ann Turner - responsible for poisoning Sir Thomas Overbury (see #9 in Chapter Nine); hanged in the style of clothes she popularized (starched collars and cuffs)
8. Apostle Eliot - John Eliot; translated the Bible into the Indian dialects so that the Indian tribes surrounding the English towns could read Scripture, and therefore, convert to Christianity
9. Hebrew - language spoken by Israelites and Jews all over the world; also the language spoken and written in the Old Testament of the Christian Bible
10. Moses - a Hebrew leader in the Bible who led the Israelites out of slavery and brought the 10 Commandments from God to the people
11. New Jerusalem - also known as a heavenly Jerusalem; according to the Christian Bible, the earthly location where true believers of Christ will spend all of eternity with God after the second creation of the world

Chapter Twenty-One

1. plebeian - common person
2. Merry Andrew - a clown or a buffoon
3. Cornwall and Devonshire - neighboring parts of England
4. aqua-vitae - a strong liquor, often used to "revive" spirits or wake a person from fainting

Chapter Twenty-Two

1. College of Arms - an establishment that records, grants, and regulates heraldry, armorial bearings, and pedigrees; started in 1484 by King Richard III
2. Knights Templar - famous Christian military order that was created to protect the pilgrims who traveled to Jerusalem after the First Crusade
3. Bradstreet, Endicott, Dudley, Bellingham - Simon Bradstreet, John Endicott, Thomas Dudley, Richard Bellingham were all governors of New England in the 17th Century
4. House of Peers - members of the House of Peers were representatives from Scotland and Ireland who were chosen to go to England and represent their own country in the House of Lords
5. Privy Council - cabinet members who advise the head of state or monarch
6. Indian powwow - a gathering of Native Americans/American Indians in which singing, dancing, and socializing takes place
7. Lapland wizard - a fictional wizard of tales from the Province of Lapland, Finland
8. Increase Mather - Puritan minister who assisted in the establishment of Harvard University and also took part in the Salem Witch Trials. Wrote "The Return of Several Ministers Consulted" in which he urged judges of the Salem Witch Trials to use moderation when considering unproven evidence such as dreams and visions as proof of witchcraft. However, because he never denounced the judge's actions in the Trials, his reputation became tarnished.

Chapter Twenty-Three

1. Eternal Justice - reference to Judgement Day; or the day in which the dead are sent to Heaven or to Hell for eternity

Chapter Twenty-Four

1. Infinite Purity - use of synecdoche referring to God