Semantic Feature Analysis Chart
The Scarlet Letter

Purpose of the Strategy:
Semantic Feature Analysis is a systematic strategy for comparing and contrasting characteristics that enables students to see how words and concepts are related.

Directions:
Step 1: Select
Select a category name (i.e. The Scarlet Letter) to begin the lesson. The attributes and characteristics are from The Scarlet Letter.

Step 2: Indicate Feature Possession
Guide the students through the chart to determine whether or not the individuals share or have the features that have been selected. The +/- system is used in this example.

Step 3: Discuss Characters and Attributes
Conduct a class discussion about the concepts included in the chart. Ask the students to share what they put for each character and why.

Assessment:
The Semantic Feature Analysis helps students to see relationships among the different characters and concepts. The activity helps with thought processes and leads to a compare/contrast essay of two characters or concepts in The Scarlet Letter.

Shean, BYU, 2003
**Instructions:**

The following chart includes characters from *The Scarlet Letter* and possible attributes of each. Fill in the chart the following way: Put a (+) in the box if the attribute describes the character and a (-) if it doesn’t describe the character. If it is unknown, put a (?) in the box. There will also be debatable characters and attributes. For these, put a (*) in the box and be prepared to discuss them in class. This chart will help you to compare and contrast the main characters in the novel. Based on the data, who is similar? Who is different?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RELIGIOUS</th>
<th>BRAVE</th>
<th>SINNER</th>
<th>WISE</th>
<th>CLERGYMAN</th>
<th>ADULTERER</th>
<th>TRUSTING</th>
<th>RESPECTED</th>
<th>MEAN</th>
<th>OUTCAST</th>
<th>VENGEFUL</th>
<th>HONEST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hester Prynne</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthur Dimmesdale</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roger Chillingworth</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pearl</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. John Wilson</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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