Thematic Bibliography
The Scarlet Letter

Books and themes related to *The Scarlet Letter*:

**Man’s Inner Struggle with Himself**


Hamlet, the Prince of Denmark, is visited by his father’s ghost and is instructed to avenge his father’s murder. Hamlet must discover if the ghost is good or evil. How does he figure out what is the right thing to do? By comparing Hamlet to Arthur Dimmesdale, the students can better understand the inner conflict waging war inside Dimmesdale throughout the novel.


Davey has never felt so alone in her life. Her father is shot in a hold up, and the whole family must move to New Mexico and start over. Will she ever stop hurting? A comparison of *Tiger Eyes* to *The Scarlet Letter* will provide a new perspective on how alone Hester felt after giving birth to Pearl. Will she ever stop hurting?

**Revenge**


Edmond Dantes, a naïve, nineteen-year-old sailor, falls prey to the evil plot of four cruel men. He is taken from his fiancé and imprisoned for fourteen years. Dantes escapes, uncovers a fortune, and seeks to reclaim his love and satisfy his lust for revenge. In *The Scarlet Letter*, Roger Chillingworth, like Dantes, is fueled by revenge. Both Dantes and Chillingworth are subtle in their craft.

Shean, BYU, 2003
**Societal Conformity**


Because of a family curse, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a correctional camp for boys to build character. He is forced to dig holes every single day along with other outcast boys. Through this unfortunate experience, Stanley finds true friendship and his real self. Hester, although she is set apart by the scarlet letter, discovers who she is and what she stands for. Because of this, many people think the scarlet letter stands for good things.

**Adultery/Infidelity**


In spite of King Arthur’s reputation, kingdom, and power, his most trusted knight Sir Launcelot has an affair with Queen Gwynevere. The kingdom begins to be in disarray, and the affair is a key factor in Camelot’s eventual destruction. The affair of Dimmesdale and Hester causes quite a commotion in Puritan Boston. The town trusted the reverend as much as Arthur trusted Launcelot.
Websites related to The Scarlet Letter

www.sparknotes.com/lit/scarlet/themes.html
This website is loaded with themes, motifs, and symbols in The Scarlet Letter. Some suggested themes include sin, knowledge, the human condition, the nature of evil, identity, and society. Different passages are cited from the text to illustrate the theme’s validity.

www.gradesaver.com/ClassicNotes/Titles/thescarletletter/
Replete with facts on Hawthorne, summaries and analyses of The Scarlet Letter, this website is extremely informative. It also contains a message board, tests, and essays.

This website discusses constant structures of the social world and any society. The site also analyses such topics as results of the XX Century, racism, and ambivalent legacy and sociology’s problems.

www.probe.org/docs/adultery.html
Adultery and society are both discussed in depth throughout this website. Although adultery has been committed throughout history, this site argues that today “adultery seems more rampant than ever” (1). Both themes are evident throughout The Scarlet Letter.

www.puritansermons.com/aboutprt.htm
A history of the Puritans sets up this web site for the reader to explore other realms of the Puritans. The net surfer can also click on other links on this site to find out who the Puritans were, what they believed, etc. It would be excellent for a pre-reading activity.