



**CONCURSUL NAȚIONAL DE OCUPARE A POSTURILOR DIDACTICE/CATEDRELOR
VACANTE/REZERVATE ÎN ÎNVĂȚĂMÂNTUL PREUNIVERSITAR**

29 Iulie 2020

Probă scrisă

LIMBA ȘI LITERATURA ENGLEZĂ

Sugestie de rezolvare a subiectului

(partea de literatură și de metodică)

SUBIECTUL I

a. Contextualize the text

Published in 1850, “The Scarlet Letter” by Nathaniel Hawthorne is a Dark Romanticist novel belonging to the representative literary canon of American literature. The historical context of the period is synonymous with the conflict between the North and the South, which was settled with the Civil War, and ended with the abolition of slavery. The aftermath of the Civil War meant that the North underwent an Industrial Revolution, based on iron and steel production, while the South remained mainly agricultural and exported cotton. To stimulate trade, a transport network was developed. This led to the development of infrastructure, represented by roads, railroads, and steamboats, but also to several technological inventions, such as the mass production of motorcars and the invention of the telephone.

After the Civil War, immigration also increased, so, from a sociological perspective, society became more diverse. By the end of the 19th century, the USA had become a huge, modern, industrialised nation.

This diversity of the American society was reflected in culture, as the first decades of the 19th century were the age of the American Renaissance. With literature derived from British literary tradition, American Romanticism was the first literary trend to depict American society and explore the American landscape. With personal experience valued over reason, support for human rights, and its observance of the human psyche, American Romanticism was represented by two directions, transcendentalism and dark Romanticism.



b. Discuss

The quoted fragment from “The Scarlet Letter” by Nathaniel Hawthorne is representative of the author’s literary canon, both in terms of content and style. The general themes of the fragment are human guilt and retribution, personified by all three characters in the fragment (Hester Prynne, Pearl, and Mr. Dimmesdale). The entire fragment is representative of Hawthorne’s literary style, as it is centred around a moral metaphor, the light. It symbolises the characters’ retribution and divine forgiveness of their moral guilt.

The novel explores the genre of historical romance, as it presents the forbidden love between a married woman, Hester Prynne, and a minister, Reverend Arthur Dimmesdale. The Puritan community condemns the woman to prison, where she gives birth to a little girl, Pearl. Suspecting that the minister is the child’s father, Hester’s husband starts tormenting him to determine him to admit to the relationship. Years go by, and the minister is increasingly affected. The fragment presents the moment when he refuses to stand by Pearl and her mother in front of the local community, not ready yet to confess to his mistake.

The minister’s feelings are presented as reactions to his dialogue with the little girl, Pearl, who is his daughter. He answers the child’s innocent questions and is forced to refuse her request to stand by her and her mother: “Wilt thou stand here with mother and me, to-morrow noontide?” The reason for the minister’s refusal is his anxiety over the matter “and he was already trembling at the conjunction in which – with a strange joy, nevertheless – he now found himself–”. However, the “strange joy” that he feels is a sign that his tormented conscience is looking for release and for the moment when he will be finally allowed to admit the truth. In light of his faith and following the rules of Puritan society, he refuses to admit: “But the daylight of this world shall not see our meeting!” Pearl’s innocent laughter comes in stark opposition to all his psychological torment, symbolically meaning that none of the self-imposed rules matter.

The symbolism is taken even further in the following paragraph, in which the Dark Romantic nature acts as a counterpart to the minister’s psychological ordeal. In the sudden light of the meteor, the familiar landscape of the Puritan community appears artificial and wrong: “with a singularity of aspect that seemed to give another moral interpretation to the things of this world than they had ever borne before.” In contrast, the minister, Hester, and little Pearl appear authentic and connected



by true love and faith: “as if it were the light that is to reveal all secrets and the daybreak that shall unite all who belong to one another”. The symbolism of light is conveyed in a metaphor, which defines Hawthorne’s literary style as essentially dark Romantic, capable of exploring moral meanings and psychological depths through the use of language and symbol.

SUBIECTUL al III-lea

a. While-reading activity

Objectives of the activity: The students will identify the correct answers to 4 comprehension questions based on a literary fragment.

Estimated time: 15 minutes

The level of the students: B2

Description of the activity:

Set up: The teacher tells the students to quickly read the literary fragment individually and try to ignore any unknown words at this stage. Then, they will work with their partner and answer the 4 questions based on the text.

Run: The students read the text and work in pairs to identify the correct answers to the given questions.

The task: Read the text and choose the correct answer:

1. When does Mr. Dimmesdale promise Pearl that they will stand together holding hands?
 - a. The following day
 - b. The following week
 - c. On the judgement day
2. Mr. Dimmesdale’s answer to Pearl’s question is influenced by the fact that he was:
 - a. A teacher
 - b. A prophet
 - c. A priest



3. The light that can be seen in the sky is most probably caused by:
 - a. Lightening
 - b. A meteor
 - c. The moon
4. The strongest connection between Mr. Dimmesdale and Hester Prynne is represented by:
 - a. The letter A embroidered on Hester's heart
 - b. Mr. Dimmesdale's heart
 - c. Pearl

Close: The teacher asks the students to read the questions and say the chosen answers, encouraging the other students to correct if necessary, coming up with proof from the text.

Answer key: 1 – c 2 – b 3 – b 4 – c

b. Devise...

I. Choose the correct verb form:

1. Joey, where are you? The train _____ at 8.30!

- a. is going to arrive
- b. arrives
- c. is arriving

2. I promise I _____ you with your project.

- a. am going to help
- b. will help
- c. help

3. 'What are you doing this weekend?

I _____ my grandparents. What about you?'



- a. am going to visit
- b. will visit
- c. visit

4. Watch out! You _____ the vase!

- a. will break
- b. are going to break
- c. break

5. I _____ a coffee, please.

- a. am having
- b. am going to have
- c. will have

Students' level: B1

Objective: At the end of the activity, the students will be able to identify the correct way of expressing the future.

Key answers: 1- b, 2 - b, 3 - a, 4 - b, 5 - c.

II. Fill in with the correct future tense of the verb:

1. She has just bought a book and she _____ (read) it on holiday next week.
2. The library _____ (open) at 9 o'clock.
3. Daniel and his friends _____ (go) to the cinema tonight.
4. I hope she _____ (come) to my graduation ceremony.
5. Look at the clouds! It _____ (rain) in the afternoon.



Students' level: B1

Objective: At the end of the activity, the students will be able to complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb between brackets.

Key answers: 1. is going to read; 2. opens; 3. are going; 4. will come; 5. is going to rain.

III. Direct item to express complaint.

You notice that the park in your neighbourhood has been completely neglected and it's not a suitable place for children to play anymore.

Write a letter of complaint (140–160 words) to the mayor of your town asking him to solve the problem.

Students' level: B2

Objective: students will write a letter of complaint expressing their dissatisfaction and asking for solutions on the topic given in 140–160 words.

Marking criteria:

task achievement – 15p

organization and coherence – 15p

grammar and vocabulary – 10p

overall impression – 10p

Total: 50p