*The Scarlet Letter* Vocabulary

1. utopia n =an imaginary place considered to be perfect or ideal

2. ponderous adj =slow and clumsy because of great weight; unwieldy, dull, excessively solemn

3. edifice n =a large, imposing or elaborate structure

4. portal n =a grand and imposing entrance (often extended metaphorically)

5. inauspicious adj =unfavorable, unlucky, suggesting bad luck for the future

6. physiognomy n (fizz ee **on** a me)=facial feature or expression, esp. indicative of character or ethnic origin.

7. indubitable adj (in **doo** bid a bul) =certain, unquestionable, impossible to doubt

8. meagre adj (**mee** ger) = inadequate, scanty, paltry, modest, deficient, negligible, miserly, niggardly, beggarly

9. transgress v =to violate a law, command, or moral code

10. scaffold n = a raised wooden platform where people were publicly hanged or beheaded

11. impropriety n =something improper, incorrect; not appropriate

12. malefactress n (**mal** uh fak tris) =a woman who violates the law or does evil

13. beadle n =a minor parish (church) officer, dealing with petty offenders

14. evanescent adj (ev uh **ness** ent) =soon passing out of sight, memory, or existence; quickly fading or disappearing; light and airy

15. ignominy n (**ig** na min ee) =public shame, disgrace, or dishonor

16. iniquity n (in IK wuh dee) =a gross injustice, evil act or sin

17. visage n (**viz** ij) =the countenance conveyed by a person's face; appearance of a person

18. ordeal n =a severe experience or trial; a primitive test believed to determine innocence supernaturally (ordeal by fire or water)

19. pillory n (**pill** er e) =a wooden framework with holes for the head and hands, to confine and expose someone to public abuse

20. mien n (meen) =a person's look or manner, especially that indicate character or mood

21. preternatural adj =beyond normal or natural

22. phantasmagoric adj (fan taz ma **gor** ik) =fantastic or deceptive, like in a dream or an optical illusion

23. remonstrance n (re **mohn** strans) =protest; objection

24. heterogeneous adj (het er oh **jeen** yus) =composed of different kinds; diverse

25. infamy n =well known but for something bad

26. melancholy n =a constitutional tendency to be gloomy and depressed

27. lurid adj (**ler** ed) =causing shock, horror, or revulsion; sensational; pale or sallow in color; terrible or passionate in intensity or lack of restraint

28. writhe v (rithe) =continual twisting, squirming movements or contortions; squirm, wriggle

29. peremptory adj (per **emp** ter ee) =not allowing contradiction or refusal

30. efficacy n (**ef** i kah see) =the ability to produce a desired or intended result

31. expostulate v (ix **spot** chu late) =an exclamation of protest or remonstrance or reproof

32. appall v =greatly dismay or horrify

33. besmirch v =to stain or to make dirty

34. inscrutable adj (in **scroo** dah bul) =impossible to understand or interpret, obscure

35. retribution n =punishment or revenge for an act of wrongdoing, even in the next life retaliation for something harmful that they have done)

36. emolument n (eh **mall** you ment) =compensation, pay, salary, a fee, or profit from employment or office

37. commiseration n =a feeling of sympathy and sorrow for the misfortunes of others

38. superfluous adj (soo **per** flu us) =extra, unnecessary, more than enough

39. ascetic adj (ah sed ik) =severe self-discipline and abstention from earthy pleasures, typically for religious reasons

40. revile v =to scold using abusive language

41. contumacious adj (con too **may** shus) =in a stubborn or disobedient way

42. talisman n =a trinket or piece of jewelry used for good luck or protection from evil against evil

43. incredulity n (in ke **dyoo** le dee) =doubt about the truth of something

44. mutability n (myoo dah **bill** eh dee) =ability to change in form; fickleness or tendency to change

45. perpetuate =make something continue indefinitely, typically an undesirable situation or unfounded belief

46. caprice n (kah **preec**) =whim; sudden change of mind without any real cause

47. labyrinth =complex system of paths or tunnels, a maze

48. dauntless =bold; fearless

49. tame adj =make less strong or intense; to domesticate an animal

50. draught n (draft) =a serving of drink (usually alcoholic) drawn from a keg

51. panoply n (**pan** uh plee) =a magnificent or impressive array; a protective covering

52. expatiate v (ex pay shee ate) =explaining in great detail in speech or writing

53. indefeasible (in duh **feez** ah bul) =not capable of being undone or voided

54. requital n (re **kwi** tul – *the i is like eye*) =the act of making repayment; the return for an injury

55. emaciated adj (eh **may** shee ate ed) =extremely thin; wasted away

56. retribution n =punishment as vengeance for a wrong or criminal act

57. appellation n (apple **ay** shon) =name; title

58. exemplary adj =serving as a desirable model; representing the best of its kind

59. sagacity n (suh **gas** I dee) =keenness of perception; soundness of judgment; wisdom

60. abode n =the place where one lives; home

61. commodious adj (kah **mode** ee us) =spacious, roomy, comfortable

62. somniferous adj (sahm **ni** fur us) =tending to produce sleep

63. somnambulism n (sahm **nam** byoo liz um) =walking or doing something while asleep, sleepwalking

64. scurrilous adj (**sker** ah les) =coarsely abusive, vulgar or low, foul-mouthed, spreading scandalous claims to damage someone's reputation

65. jest n/v =a joke or the act of joking

66. zealously adv =with great energy or enthusiasm

67. benign adj (bah **nine**) =pleasant and beneficial in nature or influence

68. propensity n =an inclination to do something

69. transfiguration =a striking change in appearance, character, circumstances; complete change to a more beautiful or spiritual state

70. obviate v (**ob** vee ate) =to remove a need or difficulty; to avoid or prevent

71. remorse n =a feeling of deep regret (usually for some misdeed)

72. acquiesce v (ak wee **ess**) =to agree or consent without protest

73. propinquity n (pro **ping** kwe dee) =being close to someone or something; within the proximity of

74. sere v (seer) =dry and withered

75. verdure adj (**ver** jer) =fresh, rich vegetation

76. sedulous adj (**sed** jul less) =showing dedication, diligence, determination

77. deleterious adj (del a **tier** ee us) =causing harm or damage

78. enigma n (i nig ma) =a puzzle, mystery, or riddle

79. asperity n (eh **spare** eh dee) =harshness of tone or manner

80. impute v =to lay responsibility or blame

81. loquacity n (low **kwas** eh dee) =excessive talkativeness

82. despondency n =depression, low spirits from loss of courage or hope; dejection

83.misanthropy n (mi **san** thrah pee) =hatred, dislike, or distrust of humankind

84. satiate v (**say** she ate) =to satisfy fully

85. extenuate v =to act in such a way as to cause an offense to seem less serious

86. hypocrite n =a person who professes beliefs and opinions that he does not hold

87. machination n (mak uh **nay** shun) =plot or scheme

88. expiate v (**ex** pee ate) =atone for sins, make amends

89. irrevocable adj (ih **rev** uh kuh bul) =impossible to retract or revoke

90. solace n (**sol** is) =comfort or consolation in a time of distress or 91. sadness

91. stigma n =a mark of disgrace associated with a particular circumstance, quality, or person

92. dryad n (**dry** id) =a nymph inhabiting a forest or a tree, especially an oak tree

93. mollify v =appease or ease the anger or anxiety of (someone)

94. gesticulate v (je **stik** yoo late) =using gestures while speaking for emphasis

95. vicissitude n (**vi** sis I tood or **vi** sis I tyood) =a change of circumstances or fortune, typically one that is unwelcome or unpleasant

96. jocular adj (**jok** yuh ler) =joking, good humor

97. contiguous adj (kun **tig** yoo us) =quite close or connected in space or time

98. necromancy n (**nek** ruh man see) =communicating with the dead, especially to predict the future; witchcraft, sorcery, voodoo

99. repugnance n =strong dislike; loathing

100. celestial adj (suh **les** chuhl) =of heaven or the spirit; of the sky; supremely good

101. tumult n (**too** muhlt or **tyoo** muhlt) =a state of commotion, noise and confusion

102. nugatory adj (**noo** guh tawr ee or **nyoo** guh tawr ee) =of little or no value; trifling; worthless; useless

103. antipathy n =a strong dislike, a hostile feeling

104. escutcheon n (ih **skuhch** uhn) =shield bearing a coat of arms