



The Scarlet Letter

by Nathaniel Hawthorne · Best for C1–C2 (Advanced–Proficient)

Read-along audiobook · C1–C2

Hawthorne's novel is set in seventeenth-century Puritan Boston and written in a style that mirrors that world's gravity and formality. Hester Prynne must wear a scarlet 'A' as public punishment, and the story watches how shame, guilt, and pride shape three lives over many years. Sentences are long and elaborately constructed, and the narrator frequently pauses to philosophise — this is challenging but deeply rewarding reading for advanced learners.

What you'll practise

- Long subordinate clauses and parenthetical asides within a single sentence
- Archaic and formal vocabulary reflecting Puritan religious discourse
- Symbolic and allegorical language that carries meaning beyond the literal
- Tap any dense or old-fashioned word to unpack its meaning and keep reading

How to read it — free

Listen to the full narration while you read along — every word above your level is highlighted in time with the voice and explained on tap. No signup, nothing to install.

Read it free

<https://readingcorner.uk/books/the-scarlet-letter>