

UNIT 2 Expressing a National Spirit
American Renaissance 1800 to 1850



Nathaniel Hawthorne's
**The Minister's
Black Veil**

with **Jim Soto & Maria Andujar**

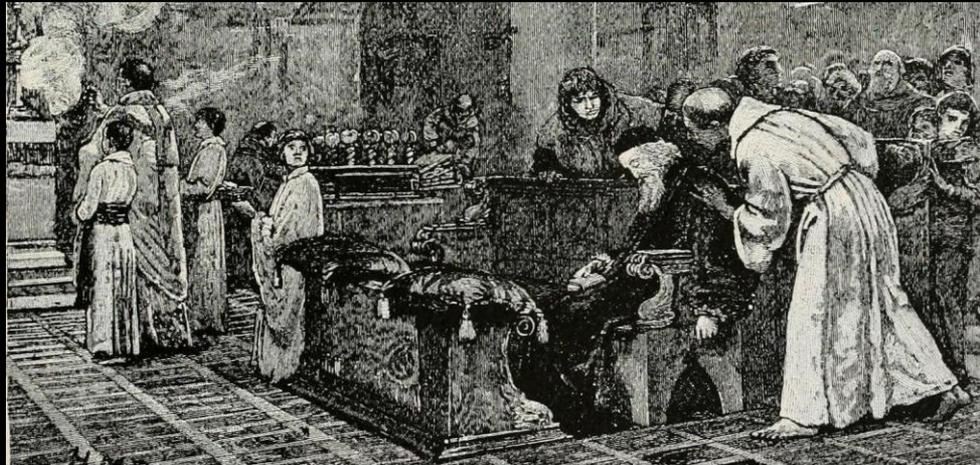
SPEAK YOUR MIND

Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Minister's Black Veil* is a story full of symbolism. Can you recall any song where an allegory is used to convey a message? Briefly describe the meaning of the song and state the item used to represent it.

Take a minute to answer the question.

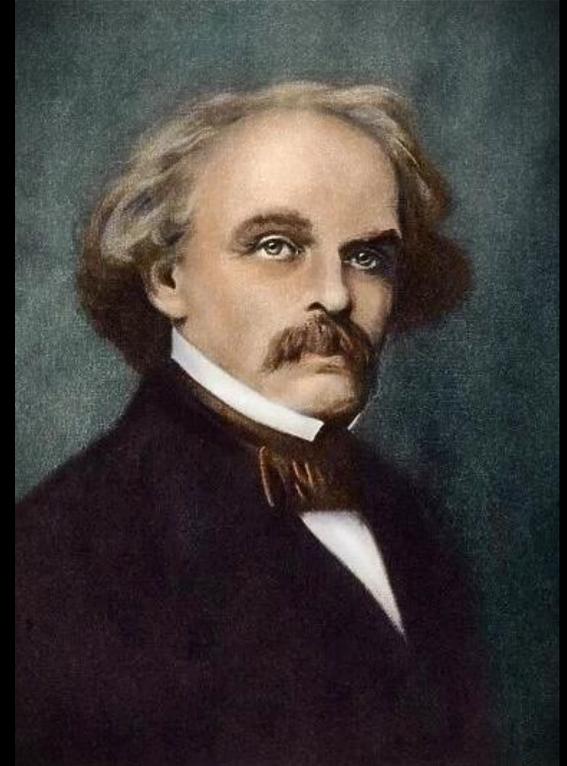


Not all American writers agreed with the general Romantic notion that the divine was embodied in nature and that people were essentially good. Some felt that these views did not properly address the evil in the world. *The Dark Romantics* were skeptics that shared interest in the spiritual but sought to explore the dark mysteries of human nature. "*The Minister's Black Veil*" by Nathaniel Hawthorne traverses themes of morality, secret sin, and isolation.



A DARK ROMANTIC AT HEART

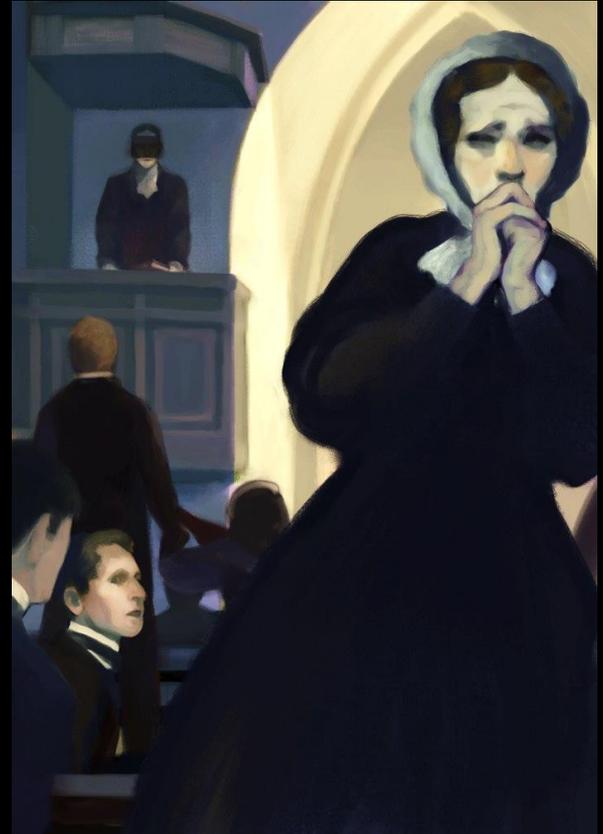
Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804-1864) was an American novelist and short story writer known for his dark introspective tales. Hawthorne's short story "The Minister's Black Veil" reflects his fascination with the themes of sin and the human psyche. The enigmatic choices made in this story can be linked to Hawthorne's own family history and personal experiences.





Hawthorne's grandfather, John Hathorne, was a judge during the Salem witch trials, a fact that haunted him. "The Minister's Black Veil" can be seen as an exploration of the consequences of hidden guilt and the masks people wear, much like the veil itself. Hawthorne's own sense of ancestral guilt and the weight of the past is evident in this story, which delves into the impact of hidden secrets and how they affect both individuals and communities.

A prominent theme in Hawthorne's work is that judging wrongdoers too harshly can be as destructive to individuals and to society as sinful behavior. This is the theme in "The Scarlet Letter", in which Hester must wear a symbol on her clothing so that neither she nor the world will forget the sin for which society has condemned her. In "The Minister's Black Veil," Parson Hooper also seems to wear a symbol of shame or evil.



LITERARY ELEMENTS



Mood

The atmosphere that pervades a literary work with the intention of evoking a certain emotion or feeling from the reader.

Ambiguity

A word, phrase, or statement which contains more than one meaning lead to vagueness and confusion that can create a great deal of suspense in a story.

Symbolism

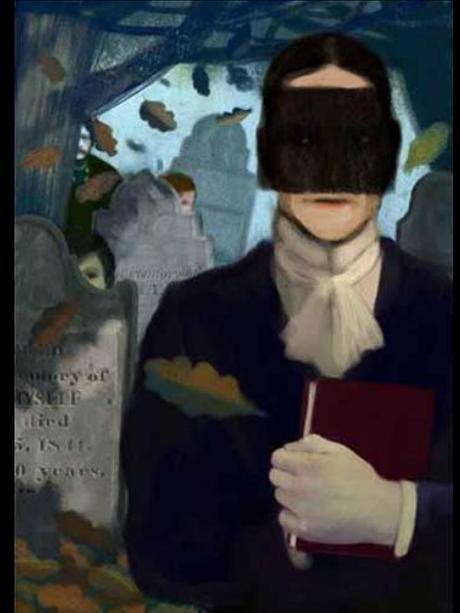
Is the investing of outward things or actions with an inner meaning. A symbol is something such as an object, picture, written word, sound, or particular mark that represents something else by association, resemblance, or convention.



ASSESSMENT

After reading "The Minister's Black Veil," complete the following activities:

1. REFER AND REASON (1 thru 3)
2. WRITING OPTIONS (Choose between 1 and 2)





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