Name:

Mr. Haflin

American Studies

Date:

**“Young Goodman Brown”, by Nathaniel Hawthorne**

**Part One:** Before reading any literary work, it’s important to understand the author’s background and historical significance. Please answer the following questions about Nathaniel Hawthorne’s life.

1. Hawthorne lived until 1864, meaning that he died just before which major event ended?
2. Hawthorne lived with his mother and sisters in the town of Raymond, Maine (far north, near Portland), which was described as “the Eden of his youth” (Lautner 2398). What **impact** did living and maturing in such a place have on his writing?
3. “For the castles of Gothic romance, Hawthorne substituted the American wilderness and the wilderness of the mind” (Lautner 2399). What **themes** or **connections** does this quote reveal with regards to American Dark Romanticism?
4. “Though afflicted by self-doubt and constrained by a materialistic society…he write about his own society and its antecedents, but it turns out that he also wrote about ours” (Lautner 2401). **Why** do we still read Hawthorne today?

**Part Two: “Young Goodman Brown”:** Answer the following in complete sentences

1. What is the setting of the story?
2. Why is the protagonist named “Goodman”?
3. What’s the name of Goodman Brown’s wife? Why is her name significant?
4. Who does the old man look similar to?
5. What’s the significance of the old man’s staff? (biblical allusion)
6. According to the old man, who supports his “interest”?
7. Why is Goodman Brown hesitant to join the old man?
8. Who does Goodman Brown see in the forest, and how does he know her?
9. Goodman Brown sees two more men in the “heathen wilderness”. Who are they?
10. Finally, Goodman Brown sees a very familiar face during the ceremony. What is his reaction to Faith’s appearance?
11. Explain the significance of the following quote: “All through the haunted forest, there could be nothing more frightful than the figure of Goodman Brown…the Fiend in his own shape is less hideous, than when he rages in the breast of man” (2427).
12. What sort of ceremony does Goodman Brown partake in?
13. How is Goodman Brown affects upon his awakening?
14. What effect does the end of the story have on the reader?