AP Language and Composition Summer Reading Assignment

Mr. Perkowski

This summer we will be studying "The Scarlet Letter" by Nathanial Hawthorne. The book is complex and will require you to read through it multiple times in order for you to fully comprehend everything that is happening in the book. It is highly recommended that you purchase your own copy of the book because you will be annotating the entire piece; however, if you lack the funds to do so, you may get a copy from a public library and keep a journal with your annotations in it. These must have page numbers in them so that I can easily cross reference it with your book. Your annotations will be due the first day of class.

Annotating
The purpose of annotating is for you to delve into the deeper meaning of the work. Annotations that just recount what is happening in the story are pretty useless and are little proof of true understanding of the piece. In Honors/AP the point of annotations is to analyze the literature. For this purpose we ask that you use different colored ink to represent different aspects of the story.

Color 1: Vocabulary – Reading helps us acquire new vocabulary. Circle each word that you do not know and then define it in the margins.

Color 2: Literary Devices – This is where you acknowledge the different devices that the author is using to convey a message to the audience. It is not enough just to label them. If you are going to say something is symbolism discuss what it is symbolizing. What is the author trying to do with their use of these devices?

Color 3: Themes – Identify parts of the piece that develop the authors overall theme. Discuss the how the author is adding to it throughout the novel.

Color 4: Connections – Connect the ideas found in the novel to present day, to other literature, to you.

Color 5: Questions – Write down questions that the piece makes you ponder. Write down questions that you have while reading. As you read through it again answer your question if you can or bring it up in class.