

The Scarlet Letter Trial
Instructions for Jurors

To begin . . .

In the matter of *Chillingworth v. Dimmesdale v. Prynne* . . .

The first paragraph ought to discuss the three defendants and their sinfulness. Each has failed in some way to heed the advice of Hawthorne's narrator who tells readers to, "Be true, be true, be true . . ." Each of the defendants is, in fact, a sinner. Your job is to decide – based on the text and the evidence presented at trial – which one is the worst.

Paragraphs 2-4 (at least) should take up the arguments for/against each defendant as put forth by their defense team. For instance . . .

The Prynne team argues that . . ., but . . .

The Prynne team points out correctly that . . .

Basically in these paragraphs you comment about the quality of evidence presented, the accuracy of the evidence based on the text, and the quality of each team's overall presentation. Discuss each defendant in turn in as many paragraphs as you need to do them justice.

In your last paragraph, begin by saying, "The Court finds . . ." and then announce your verdict, supported briefly by your reasoning.