



grammar dog.com

grammar, style, and proofreading exercises

The Grammar Dog Guide to Short Stories by Nathaniel Hawthorne

**The Minister's Black Veil
Dr. Heidegger's Experiment
Young Goodman Brown
Rappaccini's Daughter
Feathertop: A Moralized Legend**

**All exercises use sentences from the stories.
Includes over 250 multiple choice questions.**

About Gramwardog

Gramwardog was founded in 2001 by Mary Jane McKinney, a high school English teacher and dedicated grammarian. She and other experienced English teachers in both high school and college regard grammar and style as the key to unlocking the essence of an author.

Their philosophy, that grammar and literature are best understood when learned together, led to the formation of Gramwardog.com, a means of sharing knowledge about the structure and patterns of language unique to specific authors. These patterns are what make a great book *a great book*. The arduous task of analyzing works for grammar and style has yielded a unique product, guaranteed to enlighten the reader of literary classics.

Gramwardog's strategy is to put the author's words under the microscope. The result yields an increased appreciation of the art of writing and awareness of the importance and power of language.



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SHORT STORIES by Nathaniel Hawthorne – Grammar and Style
All exercises use sentences from the stories.

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SAMPLE EXERCISES - SHORT STORIES by Nathaniel Hawthorne

EXERCISE 5 COMPLEMENTS

Identify the complements in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

d.o. = direct object

i.o. = indirect object

p.n. = predicate nominative

o.p. = object of preposition

p.a. = predicate adjective

THE MINISTER'S BLACK VEIL

- ___ 1. All within hearing immediately turned about, and beheld the semblance of Mr. Hooper, pacing slowly his meditative way towards the meeting-house.
- ___ 2. The cause of so much amazement may appear sufficiently slight.
- ___ 3. Swathed about his forehead, and hanging down over his face, so low as to be shaken by his breath, Mr. Hooper had on a black veil.

EXERCISE 6 PHRASES

Identify the phrases in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

par = participial

ger = gerund

inf = infinitive

appos = appositive

prep = prepositional

THE MINISTER'S BLACK VEIL

- ___ 1. The first glimpse of the clergyman's figure was the signal for the bell to cease its summons.
- ___ 2. Mr. Hooper, a gentlemanly person, of about thirty, though still a bachelor, was dressed with due clerical neatness . . .
- ___ 3. Few could refrain from twisting their heads towards the door . . .

EXERCISE 9 STYLE: FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Identify the figurative language in the following sentences. Label underlined words:

p = personification

s = simile

m = metaphor

o = onomatopoeia

h = hyperbole

THE MINISTER'S BLACK VEIL

- ___ 1. For the Earth, too, had on her Black Veil.
- ___ 2. . . her eyes were fixed insensibly on the black veil, when, like a sudden twilight in the air, its terrors fell around her.
- ___ 3. Even the lawless wind, it was believed, respected his dreadful secret, and never blew aside the veil.

SAMPLE EXERCISES - SHORT STORIES by Nathaniel Hawthorne

EXERCISE 12 STYLE: ALLUSIONS AND SYMBOLS

Identify the allusions and symbols in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

a. history b. mythology c. religion d. literature e. folklore/superstition

THE MINISTER'S BLACK VEIL

- ___ 1. It shook with his measured breath, as he gave out the psalm; it threw its obscurity between him and the holy page, as he read the Scriptures; and while he prayed, the veil lay heavily on his uplifted countenance.
- ___ 2. Such was always his custom on the Sabbath day.
- ___ 3. The black veil, though it covers only our pastor's face, throws its influence over his whole person, and makes him ghostlike from head to foot.

EXERCISE 13 STYLE: LITERARY ANALYSIS – SELECTED PASSAGE 1

Read the following passage the first time through for meaning.

There, in fact, stood the four glasses, brimful of this wonderful water, the delicate spray of which, as it effervesced from the surface, resembled the tremulous glitter of diamonds. It was now so nearly sunset that the chamber had grown duskier than ever; but a mild and moonlike splendor gleamed from within the vase, and rested alike on the four guests and on the doctor's venerable figure. He sat in a high-backed, elaborately carved, oaken armchair, with a gray dignity of aspect that might have well befitted that very Father Time, whose power had never been disputed, save by this fortunate company. Even while quaffing the third draught of the Fountain of Youth, they were almost awed by the expression of his mysterious visage. But, the next moment, the exhilarating gush of young life shot through their veins. They were now in the happy prime of youth. Age, with its miserable train of cares and sorrows and diseases, was remembered only as the trouble of a dream, from which they had joyously awoke. The fresh gloss of the soul, so early lost, and without which the world's successive scenes had been but a gallery of faded pictures, again threw its enchantment over all their prospects. They felt like new-created beings in a new-created universe.
(From *Dr. Heidegger's Experiment*)

Read the passage a second time, marking figurative language, sensory imagery, poetic devices, and any other patterns of diction and rhetoric, then answer the questions below.

- 1 There, in fact, stood the four glasses, brimful of this wonderful water, the delicate spray of which, as it
- 2 effervesced from the surface, resembled the tremulous glitter of diamonds. It was now so nearly sunset
- 3 that the chamber had grown duskier than ever; but a mild and moonlike splendor gleamed from within
- 4 the vase, and rested alike on the four guests and on the doctor's venerable figure. He sat in a high-backed,
- 5 elaborately carved, oaken armchair, with a gray dignity of aspect that might have well befitted that very
- 6 Father Time, whose power had never been disputed, save by this fortunate company. Even while quaffing

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7 the third draught of the Fountain of Youth, they were almost awed by the expression of his mysterious
8 visage. But, the next moment, the exhilarating gush of young life shot through their veins. They were now
9 in the happy prime of youth. Age, with its miserable train of cares and sorrows and diseases, was
10 remembered only as the trouble of a dream, from which they had joyously awoke. The fresh gloss of the
11 soul, so early lost, and without which the world's successive scenes had been but a gallery of faded pictures,
12 again threw its enchantment over all their prospects. They felt like new-created beings in a new-created
13 universe.

- ___1. The underlined words in Line 1 are an example of . . .
a. assonance b. consonance c. alliteration d. rhyme
- ___2. The underlined words in Line 3 are examples of . . .
a. assonance b. consonance c. alliteration d. rhyme
- ___3. ALL of the following descriptions are parallel in meaning EXCEPT . . .
a. *glitter of diamonds* (Line 2)
b. *now so nearly sunset* (Line 2)
c. *moonlike splendor gleamed* (Line 3)
d. *young life shot through their veins* (Line 8)