



**The Grammar Dog Guide to  
The House of the  
Seven Gables  
by Nathaniel Hawthorne**

**All quizzes use sentences from the novel.  
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.



Gramwardog.com LLC  
P.O. Box 299  
Christoval, Texas 76935  
Phone: 325-896-2479  
Fax: 325-896-2676  
fifi@gramwardog.com

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ISBN 978-1-60857-004-1

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**EXERCISE 5            COMPLEMENTS**

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

*d.o.* = direct object

*i.o.* = indirect object

*p.n.* = predicate nominative

*p.a.* = predicate adjective

*o.p.* = object of a preposition

- \_\_\_1.            The House of the Seven Gables, antique as it now looks, was not the first habitation erected by civilized man on precisely the same spot of ground.
  
- \_\_\_2.            Matthew Maule, on the other hand, though an obscure man, was stubborn in the defense of what he considered his right.
  
- \_\_\_3.            The terror and ugliness of Maule's crime, and the wretchedness of his punishment, would darken the freshly plastered walls, and infect them early with the scent of an old and melancholy house.

**EXERCISE 6            PHRASES**

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

*par* = participle

*ger* = gerund

*inf* = infinitive

*appos* = appositive

*prep* = preposition

- \_\_\_1.            Halfway down a bystreet of one of our New England towns stands a rusty wooden house, with seven acutely peaked gables, facing towards various points of the compass, and a huge, clustered chimney in the midst.
  
- \_\_\_2.            There is something so massive, stable, and almost irresistibly imposing in the exterior presentment of established rank and great possessions that their very existence seems to give them a right to exist.
  
- \_\_\_3.            And, finally, her great life trial seems to be that, after sixty years of idleness, she finds it convenient to earn comfortable bread by setting up a shop in a small way.

**EXERCISE 9            STYLE: FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE**

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

*m* = metaphor

*s* = simile

*p* = personification

*h* = hyperbole

*o* = onomatopoeia

- \_\_\_1.            On every side the seven gables pointed sharply towards the sky, and presented the aspect of a whole sisterhood of edifices, breathing through the spiracles of one great chimney.

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- \_\_\_2. At last, after creeping, as it were, for such a length of time, along the utmost verge of the opaque puddle of obscurity, they had taken that downright plunge which sooner or later, is the destiny of all families, whether princely or plebeian.
- \_\_\_3. In the way of furniture, there were two tables: one, constructed with perplexing intricacy and exhibiting as many feet as a centipede; the other, most delicately wrought, with four long and slender legs . . .

**EXERCISE 12 STYLE: ALLUSIONS AND SYMBOLS**

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

*a. royalty/aristocracy    b. religion    c. mythology    d. literature    e. folklore/superstition*

- \_\_\_1. Old Matthew Maule, in a word was executed for the crime of witchcraft.
- \_\_\_2. But the Puritan soldier and magistrate was not a man to be turned aside from his well-considered scheme, either by dread of the wizard's ghost or by flimsy sentimentalities of any kind, however specious.
- \_\_\_3. These possessions . . . comprised the greater part of what is now known as Waldo County, in the State of Maine, and were more extensive than many a dukedom, or even a reigning prince's territory, on European soil.

**EXERCISE 13 STYLE: LITERARY ANALYSIS – SELECTED PASSAGE 1**

Read the following passage the first time through for meaning.

There was something very beautiful in the relation that grew up between this pair, so closely and constantly linked together, yet with such a waste of gloomy and mysterious years from his birthday to hers. On Clifford's part it was the feeling of a man naturally endowed with the liveliest sensibility to feminine influence, but who had never quaffed the cup of passionate love, and knew that it was now too late. He knew it, with the instinctive delicacy that had survived his intellectual decay. Thus his sentiment for Phoebe, without being paternal, was not less chaste than if she had been his daughter. He was a man, it is true, and recognized her as a woman. She was his only representative of womankind. He took unflinching note of every charm that appertained to her sex, and saw the ripeness of her lips, and the virginal development of her bosom. All her little womanly ways, budding out of her like blossoms on a young fruit tree, had their effect on him, and sometimes caused his very heart to tingle with the keenest thrills of pleasure. At such moments – for the effect was seldom more than momentary – the half-torpid man would be full of harmonious life, just as a long-silent harp is full of sound, when the musician's fingers sweep across it. But, after all, it seemed rather a perception, or a sympathy, than a sentiment belonging to himself as an individual. He read Phoebe, as he would a sweet and simple story; he listened to her, as if she were a verse of household poetry, which God, in requital of his bleak and dismal lot, had permitted some angel, that most pitied him, to warble through the house. She was not an actual fact for him, but the interpretation of all that he had lacked on earth brought warmly home to his conception; so that this mere symbol, or lifelike picture, had almost the comfort of reality. (From Chapter IX)

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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 was something very beautiful in the relation that grew up between this pair, so closely and constantly  
2 linked together, yet with such a waste of gloomy and mysterious years from his birthday to hers. On  
3 Clifford's part it was the feeling of a man naturally endowed with the liveliest sensibility to feminine  
4 influence, but who had never quaffed the cup of passionate love, and knew that it was now too late. He  
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10 young fruit tree, had their effect on him, and sometimes caused his very heart to tingle with the keenest  
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12 man would be full of harmonious life, just as a long-silent harp is full of sound, when the musician's fingers  
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15 she were a verse of household poetry, which God, in requital of his bleak and dismal lot, had permitted  
16 some angel, that most pitied him, to warble through the house. She was not an actual fact for him, but  
17 the interpretation of all that he had lacked on earth brought warmly home to his conception; so that this  
18 mere symbol, or lifelike picture, had almost the comfort of reality.

- \_\_\_1. Line 4 contains an example of . . .  
a. metaphor            b. simile            c. personification            d. hyperbole
- \_\_\_2. Lines 9-10 contain an example of . . .  
a. metaphor            b. simile            c. personification            d. hyperbole
- \_\_\_3. Line 12 contains an example of . . .  
a. metaphor            b. simile            c. personification            d. hyperbole

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