**“Young Goodman Brown,” Vocabulary and Questions**

Melancholy- Sadness or depression of the spirits; gloom. 

Pious- Having or exhibiting religious devotion. 

Firmament- The heaven; the sky. 

Martyr- One who dies due for their beliefs. 

Festoon- A string of garland, as of leaves or flowers, suspended in a loop or curve between two points. 

Visage- The face or facial expression of a person; countenance. 

Proselytes- A new convert to a doctrine or religion.

Canopy- A covering, usually of cloth, suspended over a throne or bed.

Wanton- Immoral or unchaste; lewd. 

Anathema- A vehement denunciation; a curse. 

Catechism- A book giving a brief summary of the basic principles of Christianity.

Cognizance- Awareness of knowledge. 

Exhorted- To urge by a strong argument. 

Persevere- To remain in spite of difficulties.

Wretched- Despicable or mean.

blasphemy -something that expresses disrespect for God or for something sacred

Conscience- The inner sense of what is right or wrong.

anathema -a detested person

covenant -a signed written agreement between two or more parties (nations) to perform some action 

ecclesiastical- having to do with the church

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| http://b.quizlet.com/a/i/spacer.99q4.giffervid- | http://b.quizlet.com/a/i/spacer.99q4.gifextremely hot, characterized by intense emotion |
| http://b.quizlet.com/a/i/spacer.99q4.giflamentations- | http://b.quizlet.com/a/i/spacer.99q4.gifoutcry of great emotional pain |
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| garb | http://b.quizlet.com/a/i/spacer.99q4.gifclothing of a distinctive style or for a particular occasion |

1.  What sound drives Brown to further despair?  What comments on human nature does this prompt the narrator to make? ("The road grew wilder . . . leaving him in the heart of the dark wilderness, still rushing onward, with the instinct that guides mortal man to evil. . . . But he was himself the chief horror of the scene, and shrank not from its other horrors. . . . The fiend in his own shape is less hideous, than when he rages in the breast of man").

2.  What thoughts prompt the appearance of Goodman Brown’s guide? What are some of his strange qualities?  Why, for example, does he resemble an older version of Brown himself, and carry a snake-like staff?  Who do you think the old man Brown meets on the road really is?  Look closely at the words used to describe him.  What do they signify?  What does the staff represent?  Do you think the staff leads Brown onward in his journey or does Brown’s own conscience/mind lead him forward?

3.  If Brown had not ventured into the forest, how would his life have been different? If Brown had stayed home with Faith, do you think he would have gone on trusting her and the other townspeople?  In allegories, characters are usually personifications of abstract qualities.  For example, a character can represent a human trait or behavior.  With that in mind, discuss the significance of the names “Young Goodman Brown” and “Faith”.

4.  How does Hawthorne expose and denounce Puritan attitudes and hypocrisy through this story?

5.  “Young Goodman Brown” is a moral allegory.  Essentially, an allegory is an extended metaphor—using one thing to represent another—a story with dual meanings.  Therefore, there is a surface or literal meaning as well as a secondary meaning.  In other words, Hawthorne uses this moral allegory to reveal a moral lesson or lessons.  Discuss the moral lesson(s) you discover in this story.