**“The Young Goodman Brown” Reading Questions**

After you read Young Goodman Brown, you must answer **six** of the ten questions below. **One of the six questions you answer must be #11.** The other five are up to you – just make sure you provide an explanation and supporting textual evidence for each response. Good luck! ☺

1. What is the tone at the very beginning of the story? What words does Hawthorne use to establish this tone and the resulting mood on the part of the reader?
2. The “journey” motif is used frequently in literature. Explain what figurative/symbolic journey Goodman Brown takes in the story.
3. Hawthorne chose character names in a very intentional way. What is the significance behind Goodman Brown’s name?
4. List at least three direct quotes in which Goodman Brown refers to Faith. Why does Hawthorne include these references? (Hint: Think about “Faith” in more than one way.)
5. All main characters in literature learn something in the course of a story, and as a result of this, they change by the end. In this story, how does Goodman Brown change, and what did he learn that caused this change?
6. What happens to Goodman Brown’s attitude as the story progresses? Provide specific references.
7. Why do you think Hawthorn make the Devil look so much like Goodman Brown?
8. In the story’s last sentence, Hawthorne says, “…they carved no hopeful verse upon his tombstone, for his dying hour was gloom.” If Brown was not directly involved in what went on during the course of the story (the townspeople going to the “meeting”), why was his dying hour one of gloom?
9. What is the story’s theme/message? Refer to passages that make this theme/message clear.
10. Why does Hawthorne leave us wondering whether the story is a dream or reality? What effect does this have on the reader?
11. **Compare and contrast Hawthorne’s views with those of traditional Puritans. What Puritan concepts or values does Hawthorne support in his story? In what ways does he criticize the Puritans? Can this piece really be considered a “Puritan” story?**