



Understanding The Scarlet Letter A Student Casebook to Issues, Sources, and Historical Documents The Greenwood Press Literature in Context Series

By Claudia Durst Johnson

Greenwood. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. Hardcover. 246 pages. Dimensions: 9.5in. x 6.4in. x 1.0in. Sexual misconduct of society's leaders, the plight of single mothers, the separation of church and state all are burning issues of the 1990s which sparked outrage and controversy 150 years earlier in *The Scarlet Letter*. Now, no study of American history is complete without thorough examination of Nathaniel Hawthorne's timeless masterpiece. This multidisciplinary study of the novel contains historical documents, collateral readings, and commentary. In short, it is the ideal companion for students who wish to fully understand the novel in the context of its time, and to unlock its current relevance. Among the materials are original 17th-century documents that illuminate Puritan attitudes and bring the Salem witchcraft trials to life, private journals, historical reports, 19th-century magazine articles, sketches, and newspaper stories. Many of the documents are available in no other printed form. Not only do these materials provide a taste of 17th-century Puritan culture, but they also glimpse into Hawthorne's mind as he comes to terms with his witch-hunting ancestors and his vocation. Most importantly, this casebook contemplates the many issues raised by *The Scarlet Letter* which inextricably link the 17th-century Puritans to the 19th century...



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