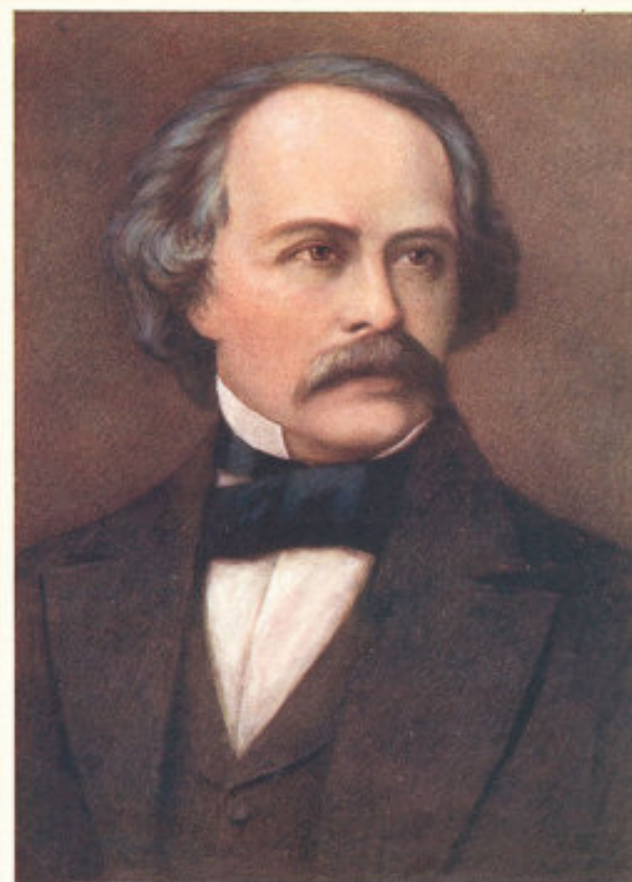
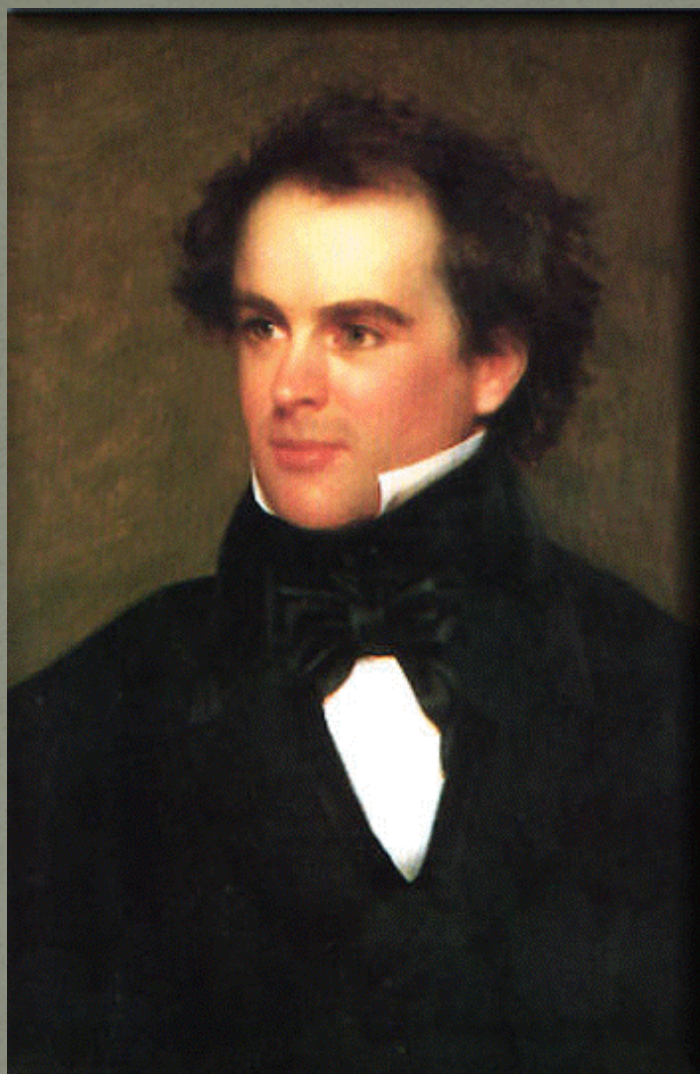


Nathaniel Hawthorne

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(1804-1864)



NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE

# Hawthorne Biography

- Novelist/ short story writer
- Puritan Ancestry
  - Changed the spelling of his name to distance himself from his **great, great, great, grandfather**—John Hathorne—one of the judges in the Salem witchcraft trials of 1692
  - Lived in Salem
  - **Tried to destroy all copies of his first novel.**
- Wrote *The Scarlet Letter* (1850)

# Style and Characteristics

- Romantic Pessimist
- Use of Symbolism
- **Didactic--teach a moral**

# "Young Goodman Brown"

Summary: Goodman Brown is tempted to attend a devil worship ceremony, discovering his role models are there as well. He returns home a changed man, disillusioned after the nightmarish experience.

This allegorical tale (symbolic meaning beyond the literal) touches on many of Hawthorne's favorite themes:

- Hypocrisy—people pretend to be good, largely due to our Puritan guilt
- Man is basically evil & evil isolates us and causes us to lose our innocence
- Compassion is the cure