American Lit Final

*Essay:*

*The Scarlet Letter* is a story of hidden sin, guilt, and lies. How did each of these themes affect each of the main characters’ plotlines (4 main characters)? Follow each of the four main characters throughout the story and how each of these themes changed their lives.

Shorter Essays:

1. American literature started as Native American Oral Tradition. Explain 2 myth stories that were told in the text book. Why were these stories told (look at collection 1)?
2. At the beginning of American literature, there were 4 types of writing. Explain each type of writing and give an example from your book of each (look at collection 2).
3. During the Romantic period in American literature, there were two major types of literature; American Romanticism and Gothic Fiction. What were the characteristics of each type of literature and how were they different from each other? Use specific examples from their pieces of literature in your textbook to explain the characteristics and how they were different (look at collection 4 and 5).

Here is the list of characteristics of American Romanticism and Gothic Fiction. You have to figure out where they fit:

1. Belief in the unspoiled natural world, as opposed to the artificiality of civilization
2. Reaction against the optimism of transcendentalists
3. Romantic interest in intuition, imagination and hidden truths
4. Affirmation of feeling and intuition over reason
5. Regard for individual freedom and the worth of the individual
6. Use of haunting, eerie settings and strange, chilling events
7. Faith in imagination, inner experience, and youthful innocent , rather than educated sophistication
8. Exploration of evil and irrational depths of the human mind