

Target Text: "The Birthmark" by Nathaniel Hawthorne

Task 1:

Construct a statement about the story's theme that unifies what the short story is about. (Avoid simplistic observations, such as "beauty is only skin deep.") Instead aim for an abstract statement that can be supported or "proven" by specific examples from the text.

Task 2:

Locate as many examples of the following elements in Hawthorn's short story, "The Birthmark."

<p>Ironies</p> <p>(13) "Either remove this dreadful hand or take my wretched life.."</p> <p>(17) "...I would not wrong either you or myself by working such inharmonious effects..."</p> <p>(19) "...his most splendid successes were almost invariably failures..."</p>	<p>Binary Oppositions</p> <p>(23) "the fatal hand had grappled...a mortal frame"</p> <p>(11) "you came so close...visible mark of earthly imperfection..." (beauty and blemish)</p> <p>(12) holy and sinister "...In this manner...given him delight."</p>	<p>Paradoxes</p> <p>(17) "...the elixir of immortality. It is the most precious poison that was ever concocted in this world."</p> <p>(23) "...to find the perfect future in the present..."</p> <p>(19) "...it was the sad confession in the continual exemplification of the shortcomings of the composite man." (note the whole paragraph)</p>
<p>Ambiguities</p> <p>(11) "...'upon another face, perhaps it might be'" a beauty mark</p> <p>(10) "His love...to his own."</p> <p>(13) "I know not...cureless deformity..."</p>	<p>Tensions</p> <p>(10) "It was not unusual for the love of <u>science to rival the love</u> of woman in its depth and absorbing energy."</p> <p>(20) "Why do you come hither? Have you no trust in your husband?"</p> <p>(13) "Dearest Georgiana, I've spent much thought upon the subject."</p>	