

The House of the Seven Gables

Nathaniel Hawthorne

What does Hawthorne gain by describing the house as if it were a face?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	The house has a human face
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION	Chapter I · The Old Pyncheon Family
START	Halfway down a by-street of one of our New England towns stands a rusty wooden house
END	The aspect of the venerable mansion has always affected me like a human countenance
PASSAGE ID	sec-h7g-01

THE MOVE

Turn setting into a record of accumulated history

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Hawthorne’s comparison of the house to a human face makes architecture carry memory. Age, weather, family history, and moral atmosphere become visible as if the building itself had lived through them.

MARK

Underline the physical details of the house’s exterior. Circle the words that belong more naturally to a human face or expression. Draw arrows connecting each human feature to a piece of accumulated history.

NOTICE

- What can an old building literally show about time?
- What does the face comparison let Hawthorne suggest that ordinary architectural description would not?
- How does personifying the house prepare it to function almost like a character?

THINK

Answer provisionally: What does Hawthorne gain by describing the house as if it were a face? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: What does Hawthorne gain by describing the house as if it were a face? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	The face comparison lets the house appear to carry memory and character. Weathering, age, darkness, and architectural features become expressions of accumulated family history rather than neutral description.
EVIDENCE	Use one physical feature of the house and the human-face language attached to it, then connect that feature to history or atmosphere.
WATCH FOR	Do not say the house literally has emotions. Explain what personification allows the setting to record.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

STUDENT PAGE · SAME PASSAGE, SAME THINKING

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What does Hawthorne gain by describing the house as if it were a face?

START ANCHOR	Halfway down a by-street of one of our New England towns stands a rusty wooden house
END ANCHOR	The aspect of the venerable mansion has always affected me like a human countenance

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OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. **MARK** - Underline the physical details of the house's exterior. Circle the words that belong more naturally to a human face or expression. Draw arrows connecting each human feature to a piece of accumulated history.
2. **NOTICE** - What can an old building literally show about time? What does the face comparison let Hawthorne suggest that ordinary architectural description would not? How does personifying the house prepare it to function almost like a character?
3. **THINK** - Answer provisionally: What does Hawthorne gain by describing the house as if it were a face?
4. **WRITE** - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.