

The House of the Seven Gables

Nathaniel Hawthorne

Why does the daguerreotype become evidence against Judge Pyncheon's respectable appearance?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	The camera sees the Judge differently
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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 VI · Maule's Well
START	"If you would permit me," said the artist, looking at Phœbe, "I should like to try whether the daguerreotype can bring out disagreeable traits on a perfectly amiable face.
END	the likeness was intended to be engraved."
PASSAGE ID	sec-h7g-03

THE MOVE

Use a repeated image to challenge public appearance

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Judge Pyncheon's public face communicates respectability, while the daguerreotype repeatedly captures a harder expression. The image becomes evidence because it appears less responsive to social performance than human observers are.

MARK

Underline descriptions of the Judge's respectable public appearance. Circle the traits the daguerreotype reveals instead. Star the point where the live face and the image are explicitly recognized as the same hidden expression.

NOTICE

- What can the Judge control about how people see him in person?
- What does the camera seem to record that social manners disguise?
- Why does repetition make the daguerreotype feel like evidence rather than one unflattering image?

THINK

Answer provisionally: Why does the daguerreotype become evidence against Judge Pyncheon's respectable appearance? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: Why does the daguerreotype become evidence against Judge Pyncheon's respectable appearance? 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 daguerreotype becomes evidence because the camera repeatedly produces a hard, unpleasant expression beneath the Judge's cultivated public appearance. The image seems less responsive to manners and performance than human observers are.
EVIDENCE	Contrast the Judge's pleasant social face with the repeated photographic result and the characters' reaction to that mismatch.
WATCH FOR	Do not treat one bad photograph as proof of evil. The force comes from repetition and conflict with the carefully managed public image.
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.

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START ANCHOR	"If you would permit me," said the artist, looking at Phœbe, "I should like to try whether the daguerreotype can bring out disagreeable traits on a perfectly amiable face.
END ANCHOR	the likeness was intended to be engraved."

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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 descriptions of the Judge's respectable public appearance. Circle the traits the daguerreotype reveals instead.

Star the point where the live face and the image are explicitly recognized as the same hidden expression.

2. NOTICE - What can the Judge control about how people see him in person? What does the camera seem to record that social manners disguise? Why does repetition make the daguerreotype feel like evidence rather than one unflattering image?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: Why does the daguerreotype become evidence against Judge Pyncheon's respectable appearance?
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.