

**Enhanced
Edition!**

SAT

& College Preparation Course for the Christian Student



- › **Test-taking insights and strategies**
- › **Timely tips for thriving academically**
- › **50+ sample essays sharpen your skills**

JAMES P. STOBAUGH

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This book is gratefully dedicated to my wife,
Karen Elizabeth Stobaugh

*“Come! Glorify the Lord with me!
And let us exalt His name forever!”*
—Psalm 34:3

TOC

Table of Contents

Introduction	7
Frequently Asked Questions	9
How to Use This Book	13
Lessons	17
Answers and Solutions.....	263
Appendices	317
A. Vocabulary Helps	319
B. Book List.....	320
C. Reading Journal.....	345
D. Devotional Journal.....	346
E. Target Scriptures.....	347
F. Test-Taking Strategies	348
G. Critical Thinking Skills.....	350
Bonus! "Jitters"	351
The Rise of the Secular University	353
Fifty Examples of College Admission Essays	372

Every student who is planning on, or thinks there may be the possibility of, attending college should take the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT I). *The SAT and College Preparation Course for the Christian Student* is specifically designed for Christian students—in homeschools, in Christian schools, or among individual families—to strengthen their faith as well as increase their knowledge.

Why should a Christian student prepare for the SAT I any differently than a non-believer? SAT preparation must be understood in the context of our spiritual journey. In 2 Timothy 2, Paul urges the young pastor Timothy to study hard and to do his work as if he were working for the Lord. So must we do all that God calls us to do with all the strength, vitality, and courage we can. This book challenges you to work hard and to study to show yourself approved of the Lord.

My prayer for you is this:

“For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives his name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.” (Ephesians 3:14-21)

What Is the SAT I?

The SAT I is an aptitude test not an achievement or intelligence test. It does not measure your information acquisition or assimilation skills. It measures your potential success in college, but it has absolutely nothing to do with your worth in God's eyes.

Nevertheless, it is an important test, particularly for homeschoolers who do not have diplomas from an accredited school. It is the most common resource on which colleges—both secular and Christian—base their offers of admission and financial aid. Although most students can get into college even with low SAT scores, financial aid and scholarships will be more readily available for those students with higher SAT scores.

The SAT I is offered seven times a year in the United States and six times at international sites. The test:

- Takes three hours and 45 minutes but you should allow four hours
- Consists of 10 separately timed sections:
 - Three sections test writing (60 minutes)
 - Three sections test critical reading (70 minute)
 - Three sections test mathematics (70 minutes)
 - One unscored section tests critical reading, mathematics, or writing (25 minutes). Normally the CollegeBoard uses this section to create future tests.
- Assesses critical thinking and problem solving skills in three areas:
 - Critical reading
 - Mathematics
 - Writing
- Includes three kinds of questions:
 - Multiple-choice questions
 - Student-produced responses (mathematics only)
 - Essay questions
- Is machine-scored, except for the essay

Each section is worth 800 points. Thus, a perfect score is 2400. CollegeBoard reports that, on average, students answer 50 to 60 percent of questions correctly, 80 percent finish nearly the entire test, and most students complete at least 75 percent of the questions.

The verbal section consists of analysis questions, vocabulary questions (based on context), comparison questions (based on reading passages), and reading comprehension. The math section consists of arithmetic, algebra, geometry, quantitative comparisons, and grid-ins. In other words, the SAT I is essentially a critical reading, vocabulary, and arithmetic word problem test.

Should I Take Practice SAT I Tests?

Unfortunately, the SAT I is coaching resistant. Likewise, there is no correlation between frequency of taking the SAT I and increased scores. In fact, several studies have implied that repeat scores are equally low or high (+ or -8 points).

Nonetheless, my 30+ years of coaching the exam have conclusively shown me that taking practice tests (not real test) can be very helpful under the following condition: you must spend three to six months in some sort of coaching course between tests.

Thus, I recommend that you take a mock SAT every two months during your preparation. If you wish to purchase actual CollegeBoard mock SATs and to receive other

SAT preparation material, including free live instructional videos, text your name and e-mail to (870) 568-0072 or visit www.WhatIsTheBestTest.com. If you have questions feel free to phone 814-479-7710. In my opinion, it is best to take mock, not real, SAT I exams. Why? Recently CollegeBoard published a confidential study that showed that 10 percent of colleges averaged SAT I scores. I personally think that the number is larger. Therefore, it would be better to take eight to ten mock exams, and only two or three real exams. That way you do not have to explain any embarrassing initial low scores. One final note: in the past, CollegeBoard sent all official scores to colleges. Recently, though, CollegeBoard now will send only your requested scores.

What Are the PSAT and NMSQT?

The PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test) is a shortened version of the SAT taken during the junior year and is generally recognized as a “practice” SAT. It is also referred to as the NMSQT (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) because the scores of the PSAT are used to determine if a student can qualify for a National Merit Scholarship, a prestigious honor.

Unlike the SAT, the verbal section of the PSAT includes questions evaluating writing ability. These multiple choice questions will evaluate your ability to identify good writing by asking you to detect faults in usage and grammar.

The PSAT is scored differently than the SAT. Scores for each section on the PSAT range from 20 to 80. You may take the test any time prior to your junior year, but only the junior year PSAT score will count toward the NMSQT. In my years of coaching experience, I have found that the first score on the PSAT is oftentimes the best score, so I recommend only taking it your junior year.

During October of each year, the PSAT is administered in your local high school. In early December your scores will be mailed to you. After all the scores have been analyzed, your score will be compared to others and you may be designated a Recommended National Merit Semifinalist. Only the top scores—1.5 percent—reach a recommended National Merit Semifinalist status and only .7 percent actually win a scholarship.

In March, May, or June all Recommended National Merit Semifinalists must take the SAT I if they wish to be considered for a National Merit Scholarship. In early September of the senior year, PSAT scores and transcripts will be evaluated, and National Merit Scholarships will be awarded. Most scholarships come from corporations. NMSQT scholars are required to attend colleges that corporations choose to support if they wish to receive a National Merit Scholarship. Most colleges will award an equal or higher scholarship anyway, so go to where God is telling you to go regardless of where corporations want you to go.

For more information, see the PSAT/NMSQT Student Bulletin. Call (847) 866-5100.

Should I Take the PSAT?

Not necessarily. There is no correlation between frequency of aptitude test taking and increased scores; indeed, the opposite may happen. In fact, many students are discouraged by low PSAT scores and find that their SAT preparation is hindered. There-

fore, I recommend that all students take a mock SAT to get an idea how well they will do on the PSAT. If in fact the student scores high (above 2250) then take the PSAT.

How Important Is Stress Reduction?

My thirty years of coaching remind me how important stress reduction is to high SAT I scores. In fact, in my opinion, it is the most important preparation variable. For Christians, at least, stress reduction is best accomplished by a frequent and thorough devotional and Bible memorization program. The SAT and College Preparation Course for the Christian Student amply discusses this point and provides preparation exercises that will equip the student to be ready for the SAT I.

What About Learning Disabled Students?

A student at any grade level with a documented disability is eligible for special arrangements for the PSAT and SAT. For further information, visit the CollegeBoard at www.collegeboard.org.



Visit nlpj.com/SATwkbk to download your free copy of Dr. Stobaugh's *Workbook For The CollegeBoard® SAT I Essay*. This handy resource will give you additional tips and samples you can work on to hone your essay skills!

The SAT and College Preparation Course for the Christian Student is designed to prepare you academically and spiritually for the challenge ahead of you. There are four components to this course: 1) a daily devotion, 2) reading and vocabulary exercises, and 3) math and verbal exercises and 4) test taking strategies.

The lessons include:

- **A Comprehensive Reading Program.** Reading good books is the single best preparation for the SAT verbal section. You should try to read one book each week. Also, within the lessons are reading excerpts from various disciplines—art, music, social sciences, and natural sciences. These will help expand your vocabulary and improve your critical thinking skills. (Note: There is a suggested reading list in Appendix B which contains both Christian and secular works. Christian and public colleges read many of the same titles—especially the classics—but feel free to substitute other books as you deem appropriate.) It is also important to keep a reading journal. There is an outline for this in Appendix C.
- **Intentional Vocabulary Development.** As you work your way through the reading list, you will encounter unfamiliar words. For each word, you will then make a vocabulary card that you can later review to reinforce the definitions. Each lesson, then, encourages vocabulary development through the use of these vocabulary cards. There is an explanation and example in Appendix A.
- **Test-Taking Strategies.** Practical techniques for test-taking are given throughout the book, and more are listed in Appendix F.
- **Intentional Faith Building.** Through the use of a devotional journal (Appendix D) and target Scriptures (choose from examples in Appendix E), you will implement the spiritual disciplines of Bible reading and study, Scripture meditation and memorization, and prayer. In my experience, I have found that the best SAT scores come from students who have serious, disciplined prayer and devotional lives. These spiritual truths will be a great reservoir of strength from which you can draw not only on the day of the SAT exam, but throughout your life.
- **Essay Writing.** This section will introduce and explain several essay styles. You will be assigned to write various essays, which will be great preparation for the SAT I. Examples of each type will be given in the answer key. Essay assignments in this book will vary in length. However, during the actual SAT I test you will have 25 minutes to write your essay. A typical SAT essay is 300-400 words in length so keep this in mind as you write your practice essays.

This book is built around 150 lessons that can be completed in one, two, or three years. Each student should decide with his or her parents the best way to implement these lessons. Assuming students will take the exam in May or June of their junior year, families have found the implementation schedules on the following pages to be most successful.

Important Note to Parents:

You and your family are encouraged to join your student in this time of preparation. For example, everyone can join in learning new vocabulary words. Also, in some lessons I have included MindTrap® dilemmas (from the board game of the same name). I recommend you buy this game, and, as a family, try to solve one each day. They are fun and

will help your student learn how to think.

Also, consider having your child learn Latin and/or Greek instead of a modern language. Modern languages can be picked up fairly easily in college. Greek and Latin will help in vocabulary preparation and grammar skills.

A vital part of SAT preparation is taking an actual SAT I exam. I recommend your student take a mock SAT every two months. If you wish to purchase actual CollegeBoard mock SATs and to receive other SAT preparation material, including free live instructional videos, text your name and e-mail to (870) 568-0072 or visit www.WhatIsTheBestTest.com. If you have questions feel free to phone 814-479-7710.

Finally, you are asked to spend time with your child in prayer and review of their vocabulary cards. Do not take this lightly. Encourage your student to work hard. Make sure your child memorizes Scriptures. Keep them reading. And, most importantly, pray for them!

The SAT Day

Here is one example of a typical test-day schedule. Times will vary depending on the actual time of the test, how far away the test site is, etc.

6:00 a.m.

Students: Wake up and eat a healthy breakfast. You should have been arising at this time for at a week or two before the exam to prepare your body. The whole family should gather and pray for the student.

6:30 a.m.

Last minute check-up: six sharpened #2 pencils, calculator with fresh battery, snack (no candy), ticket, picture ID, watch

7:00 a.m.

Parents should take the student to the test site, and then stay and pray for the student through the morning. It is a good idea to scout out the location the week before. Pray over the building. Relax in the car and meditate on Scriptures.

7:30 a.m.

As soon as the test site opens, go get a seat. Then return to the car. Do not hang around in the test site. Save a seat on the end of the row fairly distant from high traffic areas (doorways and bathrooms).

8:00 a.m.

By this time you should leave the car and go back into the test site. Parents should pray for the student one last time.

9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Take the exam. Be sure to use the exam to work the problems, not the answer sheet. I do not recommend sending your scores to a college until you get the score you want.

12:30 p.m.

Celebrate! Celebrate God's faithfulness! Meditate on what God has done in your life through this preparation process. Consider Joshua 4. You will receive your scores in six weeks.

The 3-Year Plan (highly recommended)

Beginning in 9th grade

Year 1:

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read lesson • Answer questions • Devotional journal • Begin book 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devotional journal • Continue book 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devotional journal • Continue book 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devotional journal • Continue book 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devotional journal • Finish book (use weekend if necessary) • Reading journal

Year 2:

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read lesson • Answer questions • Devotional journal • Begin book 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devotional journal • Continue book 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read lesson • Answer questions • Devotional journal • Continue book 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devotional journal • Continue book 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devotional journal • Finish book (use weekend if necessary) • Reading journal

Year 3:

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read lesson • Answer questions • Devotional journal • Begin book 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devotional journal • Continue book 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read lesson • Answer questions • Devotional journal • Continue book 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devotional journal • Continue book 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read lesson • Answer questions • Devotional journal • Finish book (use weekend if necessary) • Reading journal

The 2-Year Plan

Beginning in 10th grade

Year 1 and 2:

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read lesson • Answer questions • Devotional journal • Begin book 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devotional journal • Continue book 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read lesson • Answer questions • Devotional journal • Continue book 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devotional journal • Continue book 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read lesson • Answer questions • Devotional journal • Finish book (use weekend if necessary) • Reading journal

The 1-Year Plan

Beginning in 11th grade

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read lesson • Answer questions • Devotional journal • Begin book 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read lesson • Answer questions • Devotional journal • Continue book 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read lesson • Answer questions • Devotional journal • Continue book 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read lesson • Answer questions • Devotional journal • Continue book 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read lesson • Answer questions • Devotional journal • Finish book (use weekend if necessary) • Reading journal

Senior Year

The senior year should be devoted to college admission; however, that process may need to be delayed for an SAT retake during the senior year. If your score in May/June junior year is completely unsatisfactory, you may need to retake the exam early in your senior year. Take the test as soon as possible during the next year. This will leave open several options: early admission to the college of your choice (which will open more financial aid options); regular admission (complete applications as soon as possible); or delayed admission to a college, taking a year off to save money or to go on a mission trip. You and your parents/guardians together need to consider prayerfully these options.



TIP

Active Reading

In the next one hundred & fifty lessons you will practice active reading. In other words, you will not merely read “words.” You will understand or comprehend what the passage is saying. As I have already mentioned, reading is the single most important skill that you will need to receive a high score on the SAT I.

Active readers ask themselves questions and make predictions about what will happen next. These predictions make it easier to understand what comes next and significantly add to comprehension.

Here are some more suggestions:

- Mark up your text.
- Ask yourself pertinent questions and predict outcomes as you read.
- Why did the author choose a certain title? Identify evidence that supports this title.
- Determine the value of information and disregard that which is irrelevant.
- Be flexible. Adjust your conclusions as new information is presented.
- Suspend judgment until all facts are gathered and considered.
- Draw conclusions as you read.
- What is the author’s purpose? Who is his audience? What is his main idea? How does he support it?
- Pay close attention to:
 - the first sentence and last sentence of each paragraph.
 - the first and last paragraph of each passage/essay.

Then they said to each other, “Let’s build for ourselves a city and a tower. And let’s make the top of the tower reach high into the sky. We will become famous. If we do this, we will not be scattered over all the earth.” —Genesis 11:4 (NCV)

Scripture: Genesis 11:1-9

Lost Horizons by James Hilton is a story of four people brought against their will to a mythical place called Shangri-La. It is a magical place hidden in the mountains where no one grows old. The story is about Hugh Conway, who finds himself trapped by the fascination of eternal life. Humankind has always sought to create a perfect society; the Tower of Babel is one notable example. But God had other plans... “this is only the beginning of what they will do” (Genesis 11:6). Ultimately, all plans to create a perfect society fail—unless one centers that society on the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Plans to create a life without worry fail without a life centered on the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

What is a perfect world to you? What is a perfect world to God? Organize your thoughts!

Topic	My View	God’s View
1. Obeying my parents		
2. Lying and stealing		
3. Loving my brothers/sisters		

Devotional Journal

A daily devotional time is valuable as you prepare for the SAT. To accomplish this implement a thirty-minute time each day by using Appendix D. Use the following passage as a sample meditation.

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, “Have everyone leave my presence!” So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him... Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph!” (Genesis 45:1-3)

Read/Vocabulary Cards

- I recommend that you read *Lost Horizons* or choose a book from the book list on page 320, reading thirty to fifty pages per day.
- Keep a list of vocabulary words that you do not know. First, define the words on your own, and then check your definitions in the dictionary. Keep the words on 3 by 5-inch cards and review them on Friday with your parents or guardians.

Reading Journal

When you finish reading each book, be sure to use the reading journal in Appendix C. This will help you identify and remember the author’s ideas and worldview.

Solve

How many ways can a team win a best-of-five-games play-off?

Create a Reading Habit

- Discuss your reading material with your parents.
- Set aside a designated reading time each day.

Summary

Active Readers connect, question, predict, visualize, clarify, expect, and evaluate.

Connect with what you are reading.

Question what you read.

Predict what will happen next

Visualize details.

Clarify and review what you understand,

Expect to see your comprehension increase.

Evaluate (form opinions) about what you read.

Thy Father Seeketh After Thee

As he went, he cried out, “My son Absalom, my son Absalom! I wish I had died for you. Absalom, my son, my son!” —2 Samuel 18:33 (NCV)

Scripture: 2 Samuel 18

During the Civil War, a Pennsylvania Dutch Quaker father disagreed vehemently with his son about his son’s decision to enlist in the Union army. Nonetheless, the son enlisted and participated in many battles. During late 1862, the Quaker father had a dream that his son was wounded in battle. Knowing that a battle had been fought recently at Antietam Creek, Sharpsburg, Maryland, only a few miles from home, the Quaker father made his way by horse-drawn buggy until he came to the battlefield. His son was nowhere to be found. After receiving permission to search the battlefield, the worried father set out. It was now dark and the father lit a lantern. While searching for his son, he came across many wounded young men. Some cried for help; others merely whimpered. Growing discouraged, the Quaker father began to cry, “Jonathan Smythe, thy father seeketh after thee!” For several hours he cried. Many sons answered, but none of them were his Jonathan Smythe. But the man kept diligently at his task until he heard a very faint, barely audible reply, “Father, over here.” And the son finished, “I knew that you would come.” The Quaker father knelt down, took Jonathan in his arms, comforted him with his presence, dressed his wounds, and took him home. Jonathan recovered....In our Bible story today we meet rebellious, disturbed Absalom. Disobedient, disloyal Absalom led a rebellion against his father. Many of us will not understand why David was so upset when Absalom was killed.

Why do you think David was sad? Ask your father or another adult why he thinks David was willing to give his own life for his recalcitrant son.

Devotional Journal

Read/Vocabulary Cards

Grammar

The word *swimming* in this sentence is what part of speech?

Swimming is great fun.

Vocabulary

Define these words: precocious, deprecation.

Solve

Convert 1,451,500 milliliters (ml) to liters.

The SAT is essentially a vocabulary and critical thinking exam. Both the verbal and mathematic portions focus on the ability to solve problems and process information. Therefore, organized, consistent reading is critical to a high SAT score.

3 Life with Father



A man named Jairus came to Jesus....He bowed down at Jesus' feet and begged him to come to his house. Jairus had only one daughter. She was 12 years old, and she was dying. —Luke 8:41,42 (NCV)

Scripture: Luke 8:40-56

Recently a test sample of teenagers was asked this question: "Would you rather give up your father or television?" The young people chose television over their fathers at a rate of three to one! Given that fact, at a time when it is rare indeed to hear a young person speak of his father with affection, Clarence Day's book *Life With Father* is especially needed. Clarence Day's father was a firm man, but deeply appreciated and adored by his son. He was a good father. Jairus is a good father, too. But Jairus' daughter is dying. Jairus is an important official, and it is not judicious for him to grovel before the scandalous rabbi from Nazareth. In fact, Jairus could lose everything if he did. But his daughter is dying. She needs the Master's touch. So Jairus risks everything for his little one....

Tell your dad or your Heavenly Father that you love him. Thank him for all that he has done for you. You and your dad should read and discuss Life With Father together.

Devotional Journal

Read/Vocabulary Cards

Do you know the following vocabulary words from *Life With Father*? If not, define them, and make 3 by 5-inch cards.

- A. apex
- B. gusto
- C. phlegmatic
- D. avaricious
- E. pertinacious
- F. voluminous
- G. idiosyncrasies
- H. sardonic
- I. inveigle
- J. impresario
- K. expostulate
- L. wizened
- M. apoplexy
- N. astute
- O. suavely

Solve

- A. Convert 30 cubic meters (m³) to cubic centimeters (cm³).
- B. Convert 1200 cubic meters to liters.

It is a waste of time for students to memorize the 500 most frequently used words on the SAT I. The best way to increase your vocabulary is to read widely and to remember what you have read (a list of books is included on page 320). Remember the three-step method of increasing your vocabulary: READ; KEEP 3 BY 5-INCH CARDS; USE THESE WORDS IN SPEECH AND WRITING.

Critical Reading

Read the passage on the next page and answer the questions following:

We have as yet hardly spoken of the infant that little creature, whose innocent life had sprung, by the inscrutable decree of Providence, a lovely and immortal flower, out of the rank luxuriance of a guilty passion. How strange it seemed to the sad woman, as she watched the growth, and the beauty that became every day more brilliant, and the intelligence that threw its quivering sunshine over the tiny features of this child! Her Pearl—for so had Hester called her; not as a name expressive of her aspect, which had nothing of the calm, white, unimpassioned lustre that would be indicated by the comparison. But she named the infant “Pearl,” as being of great price—purchased with all she had—her mother’s only treasure! How strange, indeed! Man had marked this woman’s sin by a scarlet letter, which had such potent and disastrous efficacy that no human sympathy could reach her, save it were sinful like herself. God, as a direct consequence of the sin which man thus punished, had given her a lovely child, whose place was on that same dishonored bosom, to connect her parent forever with the race and descent of mortals, and to be finally a blessed soul in heaven! Yet these thoughts affected Hester Prynne less with hope than apprehension. She knew that her deed had been evil; she could have no faith, therefore, that its result would be good. Day after day she looked fearfully into the child’s expanding nature, ever dreading to detect some dark and wild peculiarity that should correspond with the guiltiness to which she owed her being (*The Scarlet Letter*, Nathaniel Hawthorne).

- I. This famous passage from Nathaniel Hawthorne’s *The Scarlet Letter* introduces the memorable character Pearl. From the passage the reader knows that Pearl is
 - A. the daughter of an illicit love affair between Hester Prynne and Arthur Dimmesdale
 - B. a supernatural demon sent to punish Hester Prynne for her sin of adultery
 - C. the daughter of Hester Prynne sent by God
 - D. an example of bad choices

- II. Pearl functions in this story as a(n)
 - A. antagonist
 - B. protagonist
 - C. narrator
 - D. foil