

The Scarlet Letter Key Facts

Writer: Nathaniel Hawthorne | Generated: Jan 26, 2026

Key Facts

- **Full Title:** The Scarlet Letter
- **Author:** Nathaniel Hawthorne
- **Type of Work:** Novel
- **Genre:** Romance; Historical fiction
- **Language:** English
- **Time and Place of Writing:** Salem and Concord, Massachusetts; written in the late 1840s
- **First Publication:** 1850
- **Publisher:** Ticknor, Reed, and Fields
- **Narrator:** The story is told by an unnamed narrator who once worked as a customs officer in Salem, Massachusetts.
- **Point of View:** The novel is written in third-person omniscient.

• Setting

- **Time:** Middle of the seventeenth century
- **Place:** Boston, Massachusetts, a strict Puritan colony in early America
- **Protagonist:** Hester Prynne.