



Pearl's twilight nature in "The Scarlet Letter": Emblem of sin or self-fulfilling prophecy?

By Anja Schmidt

GRIN Verlag Okt 2007, 2007. sonst. Bücher. Book Condition: Neu. 210x148x1 mm. This item is printed on demand - Print on Demand Neuware - Seminar paper from the year 2004 in the subject American Studies - Literature, grade: 1+ (A), University of Hamburg, course: Nathaniel Hawthorne and the Puritans, 13 entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: In The Scarlet Letter Nathaniel Hawthorne has not only created an intriguing plot, but also some very 'picturesque' characters, among whom the character of Pearl can probably be viewed as the most unique one. Pearl, a composition of demon offspring and elf-child, cannot but raise the question of her identity, and nature, from the day she is born. Not only the Puritan community, even her own mother persistently questions her human nature and allegorizes her as a token of guilt. Not even Hawthorne can restrain himself in reminding us constantly about the symbolic and functional nature of Pearl, so that even the most ignorant reader must notice her resemblance of the Scarlet Letter in the story. But is Pearl really just a purpose-fulfilling construction Or is there more to this character than its function Is a child's fascination with a shiny and colorful...



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