

Nathaniel Hawthorne. From "Young Goodman Brown"

Young Goodman Brown came forth at sunset into the street at Salem village; but put his head back, after crossing the threshold, to exchange a parting kiss with his young wife. And Faith, as the wife was aptly named, thrust her own pretty head into the street, letting the wind play with the pink ribbons of her cap while she called to Goodman Brown.

"Dearest heart," whispered she, softly and rather sadly, when her lips were close to his ear, "prithee put off your journey until sunrise and sleep in your own bed to-night. A lone woman is troubled with such dreams and such thoughts that she's afraid of herself sometimes. Pray tarry with me this night, dear husband, of all nights in the year."

"My love and my Faith," replied young Goodman Brown, "of all nights in the year, this one night must I tarry away from thee. My journey, as thou callest it, forth and back again, must needs be done 'twixt now and sunrise. What, my sweet, pretty wife, dost thou doubt me already, and we but three months married?"

"Then God bless you!" said Faith, with the pink ribbons; "and may you find all well when you come back."

"Amen!" cried Goodman Brown. "Say thy prayers, dear Faith, and go to bed at dusk, and no harm will come to thee."

So they parted; and the young man pursued his way until, being about to turn the corner by the meeting-house, he looked back and saw the head of Faith still peeping after him with a melancholy air, in spite of her pink ribbons.

"Poor little Faith!" thought he, for his heart smote him. "What a wretch am I to leave her on such an errand! She talks of dreams, too. Methought as she spoke there was trouble in her face, as if a dream had warned her what work is to be done tonight. But no, no; 't would kill her to think it. Well, she's a blessed angel on earth; and after this one night I'll cling to her skirts and follow her to heaven."

Define Each Word

aptly: _____

dusk: _____

peep: _____

melancholy: _____

smite: _____

Write the Correct Word from the Vocabulary

1. The toddler _____ shyly through the window as the mail carrier delivered the large package.
2. As it often happens during war time, the soldier was _____ with the love for the beautiful young widow.
3. Joe’s daughter, Hope, was _____ named because she was an eternal optimist, always believing the best.
4. When Pruna’s grandmother died, a _____ air filled her house for many years.
5. The mosquitoes emerged from the mangroves around Chapman Field Park at _____, just after sunset.

Comprehension and Discussion: Answer Each Question in Complete Sentences

1. What, exactly, is Faith afraid of? Does Goodman Brown “hear” what Faith says? How can you tell?

2. What clues does the reader have that Goodman Brown may not “find all well” when he returns?

