

## SYMBOLISM IN NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE'S THE HOUSE OF THE SEVEN GABLES

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curse-hope and renewal

الرمزية في رواية بيت الجملونات السبعة للكاتب ناثانيال هوثورن

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المخلص:

يُعرف كتاب "بيت الجملونات السبعة" لناثانيال هوثورن بفحصه العميق للأخلاق والتاريخ والطبيعة البشرية من خلال المكونات الرمزية. ويتناول هذا البحث الطرق العديدة التي ينقل بها هوثورن موضوعات الشعور بالذنب والإهانة والفداء في جميع أنحاء الرواية من خلال استخدام الصور الرمزية. ومن أجل تحليل كيفية مساهمة هذه الرموز في البنية الموضوعية للرواية، يركز البحث على المنزل نفسه والحديقة ولعنة الأسرة وغيرها من الرموز الجديرة بالملاحظة. يقدم هذا البحث تحليلاً شاملاً لكتاب "بيت الجملونات السبعة" لناثانيال هوثورن، وهي رواية رمزية غنية تستكشف موضوعات الشعور بالذنب والانتقام والفداء في سياق لعنة عائلية موروثة. ويفحص هذا البحث الرموز المختلفة التي يستخدمها هوثورن لنقل هذه الموضوعات، بما في ذلك منزل بينشيون المتحلل، الذي يرمز إلى النقل القمعي للذنب الموروث، والحديقة، التي تمثل الأمل والتجديد. وتوضح الرموز الإضافية مثل صورة العقيد بينشيون، والبئر، والداجيريوتايب، والتفاعل بين الضوء والظلام الصراع بين الماضي المزعج وإمكانية الخلاص. ومن خلال تحليل هذه الرموز، تكشف هذه الدراسة كيف يستخدم هوثورن البيئة المادية والأشياء والصور لاستكشاف المخاوف المركزية في الرواية فيما يتعلق بعدم إمكانية الهروب من الخطيئة الموروثة وإمكانية التغلب عليها. ويؤكد التحليل على أهمية الرواية الدائمة باعتبارها تأملًا عميقًا في التفاعل بين التاريخ والأخلاق والخبرة الإنسانية. تشرح هذه الدراسة الأهمية الدائمة لرواية ناثانيال هوثورن "بيت الجملونات السبعة" في المحادثة الحديثة من خلال الاستفادة من النظرية الأدبية والسياق التاريخي. يوفر هذا البحث رؤية جديدة في التحليل العميق الذي أجراه ناثانيال هوثورن للنقل القمعي للذنب الموروث والأمل والتجديد وعدم إمكانية الهروب من الخطيئة الموروثة وإمكانية التغلب عليها من خلال إعادة فحص تحفته الفنية من منظور موضوعي الكلمات المفتاحية: موضوعات الشعور بالذنب - التدهور - الفداء - الحديقة - لعنة العائلة - الأمل والتجديد

### ABSTRACT:

The House of the Seven Gables by Nathaniel Hawthorne is well known for its profound examination of morals, history, and human nature through symbolic components. This research paper looks at the many ways Hawthorne conveys themes of guilt, degradation, and redemption throughout the novel through the use of symbolic imagery. In order to analyze how these symbols contribute to the novel's thematic structure, the research concentrates on the home itself, the garden, the family's curse, and other noteworthy symbols. This research provides a thorough analysis of Nathaniel Hawthorne's The House of the Seven Gables which is a richly symbolic novel that explores themes of guilt, retribution, and redemption within the context of an inherited family curse. This research examines the various symbols Hawthorne employs to convey these themes, including the decaying Pyncheon house, which symbolizes the oppressive weight of ancestral guilt, and the garden, which represents hope and renewal. Additional symbols like the portrait of Colonel Pyncheon, the well, the daguerreotype, and the interplay of light and darkness further illustrate the conflict between the haunting past and the possibility of redemption.

By analyzing these symbols, this study reveals how Hawthorne uses the physical environment, objects, and imagery to explore the novel's central concerns regarding the inescapability of inherited sin and the potential for overcoming it. The analysis underscores the novel's enduring relevance as a profound meditation on the interplay between history, morality, and the human experience. This study explains the lasting relevance of Nathaniel Hawthorne's "The House of the Seven Gables" in modern conversation by utilizing literary theory and historical context. This research provides new insights into Nathaniel Hawthorne's profound analysis of the oppressive weight of ancestral guilt, hope and renewal, the inescapability of inherited sin and the potential for overcoming it by reexamining his masterwork via a thematic perspective. Keywords:

Themes of guilt –degradation-redemption-the garden-the family's

## **SYMBOLISM IN NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE'S THE HOUSE OF THE SEVEN GABLES**

### **ABSTRACT:**

The House of the Seven Gables by Nathaniel Hawthorne is well known for its profound examination of morals, history, and human nature through symbolic components. This research paper looks at the many ways Hawthorne conveys themes of guilt, degradation, and redemption throughout the novel through the use of symbolic imagery. In order to analyze how these symbols contribute to the novel's thematic structure, the research concentrates on the home itself, the garden, the family's curse, and other noteworthy symbols. This research provides a thorough analysis of Nathaniel Hawthorne's The House of the Seven Gables which is a richly symbolic novel that explores themes of guilt, retribution, and redemption within the context of an inherited family curse. This research examines the various symbols Hawthorne employs to convey these themes, including the decaying Pyncheon house, which symbolizes the oppressive weight of ancestral guilt, and the garden, which represents hope and renewal. Additional symbols like the portrait of Colonel Pyncheon, the well, the daguerreotype, and the interplay of light and darkness further illustrate the conflict between the haunting past and the possibility of redemption. By analyzing these symbols, this study reveals how Hawthorne uses the physical environment, objects, and imagery to explore the novel's central concerns regarding the inescapability of inherited sin and the potential for overcoming it. The analysis underscores the novel's enduring relevance as a profound meditation on the interplay between history, morality, and the human experience. The analysis highlights how Nathaniel Hawthorne's complex symbolic representations are linked with the novel's examination of important subjects like guilt, morality and sin. Through an examination of significant symbols such as the garden, the well, and different characters, the research highlights how Nathaniel Hawthorne's challenges conventional conventions and emphasizes the novel's ongoing importance. This analysis demonstrates Nathaniel Hawthorne's skillful use of narrative technique and offers more profound understanding of the nuanced moral climate supporting the novel's ongoing relevance in modern literary conversation. Because of its complex symbolism and deep topics, Nathaniel Hawthorne's "The House of the Seven Gables" has long enthralled readers and academics alike. This work explores the complex layers of Nathaniel Hawthorne's story and characters via an extensive thematic analysis of his groundbreaking work. Additionally, this research explores how Nathaniel Hawthorne's employs symbolism throughout the book, looking at the ways in which different items, people, and occasions function as metaphorical representations of larger social and cultural constructions. Nathaniel Hawthorne's uses symbolism to give his stories depth and resonance. Examples of this include the daguerreotype and the interplay of light and darkness which represent the conflict between the haunting past and the possibility of redemption. This study explains the lasting relevance of Nathaniel Hawthorne's "The House of the Seven Gables" in modern conversation by utilizing literary theory and historical context. This research provides new insights into Nathaniel Hawthorne's profound analysis of the oppressive weight of ancestral guilt, hope and renewal, the inescapability of inherited sin and the potential for overcoming it by reexamining his masterwork via a thematic perspective.

### **INTRODUCTION:**

#### **Background of "Nathaniel Hawthorne's The House of the Seven Gables"**

The House of the Seven Gables is a potent example of Nathaniel Hawthorne's obsession with the Puritan past, ancestral guilt, and the relationship between sin and salvation. The tale, which was first published in 1851, chronicles the generations-long curse that haunts the Pyncheon family. The novel's symbolism, which sheds light on the people and larger societal challenges of Hawthorne's day, is fundamental to both its plot and themes. This research contends that 'The house of the Seven Gables' major symbols—the garden, the picture, and the home in particular—act as gateways to themes of hereditary guilt, decay, and the potential for redemption. Gothic fiction writer Nathaniel Hawthorne's The House of the Seven Gables (1851) revolves around the Pyncheon

family and their ancestral house, a dilapidated estate with a troubled past. The work delves into issues of culpability, revenge, and the legacy of past transgressions on subsequent generations. The Pyncheons and the Maules, two families with a history dating back to the late 17th century, are at the center of the plot, which takes place in a tiny New England village. Ancestor of the current family Colonel Pyncheon purchases the property for the mansion with seven gables by accusing impoverished man Matthew Maule of witchcraft, which results in Maule's execution. Declaring, "God will give him blood to drink," Maule curses Pyncheon. The book uses this curse to tell the story of the Pyncheon family's misery, highlighting the notion that previous transgressions continue to haunt future generations. The story mostly centers on the lives of the last three Pyncheons: Clifford, her brother, who comes home after being wrongfully imprisoned for thirty years; Hepzibah, an old widow who struggles to keep the house in order; and Phoebe, a young cousin who instills hope and rebirth. The mysterious character of Holgrave, a boarder at the home and a Maule family descendent, is entwined with these personalities. The book looks at how societal stagnation and inherited guilt may be broken through human growth and atonement. Hawthorne's examination of moral deterioration, supernatural aspects, and the psychological complexity of his characters all contribute to the gothic mood. The narrative concludes on a bright note, with the surviving protagonists escaping their repressive past and beginning afresh, despite its dark undertones. Hawthorne's obsession with the darker facets of American history—the Salem witch trials and Puritanism, in particular—is evident in *The House of the Seven Gables*. In addition, the book criticizes consumerism and the pernicious effects of inherited riches. Hawthorne transforms the tale into a meditation on the entwining of human nature and history through his deft use of symbolism, which is evident in the house itself, the cursed well, and recurrent themes of decay and rebirth.

#### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To list and evaluate *The House of the Seven Gables*' major emblems. The goal is to investigate meaningful symbols that symbolize deeper meanings, including the garden and the home, as well as other items, people, and locations.
2. To investigate the ways in which Hawthorne expresses themes of redemption, decay, and guilt through symbolism. Here we look at how the novel explores moral decay, ancestry guilt, and the prospect of redemption via the use of symbolic components.
3. To comprehend how the Gothic aspects of the book relate to symbolism. This aim is to look at how symbolic imagery enhances the dark, enigmatic mood of the book and adds to its Gothic flavor.
4. To examine how symbolism affects story structure and character development. This goal focuses on how symbolic events and items illuminate deeper facets of the motivations, relationships, and personalities of the characters while also advancing the story.
5. To investigate how Hawthorne's symbolic decisions were influenced by the historical and cultural background. Here it is aimed to situate the symbolism in the larger framework of 19th-century America by examining how Hawthorne's writings speak to current issues like social transformation, puritanism, and the legacy of colonial history.

#### METHODOLOGY

The current study examines the themes and symbols in Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The House of the Seven Gables* using a qualitative research approach. The approach is complicated, integrating textual analysis, literary criticism, and historical contextualization to provide a full understanding of the novel's intricate subject structure and profound symbolic meaning. The strategy is divided into many important phases:

#### TEXTUAL ANALYSIS

A careful and meticulous close reading of "*The House of the Seven Gables*" is the basis of this research. It is examined closely to look for recurring themes and symbols. Sections that highlight significant topics such as moral decay, ancestor guilt, and the prospect of salvation are also examined though they are the deeper meanings of a number of symbols that add to the work's Gothic character, such as the garden, the house, the well, the chicken and the Pyncheon Garden, the judge, the Maule Curse, and symbolic imagery. The identified themes and symbols are listed in an organized manner. It is useful to record the frequency and context of their appearances in order to understand how they have evolved throughout the tale. Themes are separated into primary (such as guilt, possibility of redemption) and secondary (such as cursed family history, buried secrets, and veiled guilt) categories to provide a logical framework for the investigation. There has been a detailed examination of the literature on *The House of the Seven Gables*. But yet, this requires reading scholarly articles, books, and critical

essays that discuss the text's ideas and symbols. A fair appraisal of the current academic dispute is presented by identifying and summarizing the crucial points of view.

### **COMPARATIVE STUDY WITH OTHER WORKS BY NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE**

One of Nathaniel Hawthorne's most well-known works, *The House of the Seven Gables* (1851), combines gothic aspects with psychological depth and moral complexity. Recurring themes and literary devices that are essential to his body of work become apparent when comparing this piece to some of his other significant works, such as *The Scarlet Letter* (1850), *Young Goodman Brown* (1835), and *The Birthmark* (1843). The recurring theme throughout Hawthorne's books and short tales is the pervasiveness of sin and the shame that follows. The main conflict in *The House of the Seven Gables* is on the curse placed on the Pyncheon family as a result of their ancestor Colonel Pyncheon's immoral deeds, which involved falsely accusing a man of witchcraft in order to take possession of his land. Guilt plays a major role in *The Scarlet Letter* as well, particularly in the lives of Hester Prynne and Arthur Dimmesdale. Similar moral and psychological burdens are created by Dimmesdale's secret shame and Hester's public humiliation for her infidelity, as seen in *The House of the Seven Gables*. The idea of hereditary shame and sin is also explored in *Young Goodman Brown*. The taint of original sin and the profound shame connected with human nature are shown by the protagonist's revelation of the widespread corruption in his Puritan town. Hawthorne frequently examines the ways in which the past, particularly via inherited guilt, haunts the present. *The House of the Seven Gables*: The deteriorating Pyncheon estate represents the weight of a troubled family history. The book examines the effects of moral decay and avarice, arguing that past transgressions can haunt present and future generations. *The Scarlet Letter* explores how cultural and familial legacies impact people, even if it is not as explicitly about heredity. *The Birthmark* is a short fiction that explores the topic of inherited imperfection through a metaphor rather than a direct discussion of familial heritage. Hawthorne frequently used locations, people, and items to symbolize bigger themes in his works, which are rich in symbolism and allegory. The home itself serves as the primary emblem in *The House of the Seven Gables*, signifying the Pyncheon family's moral and physical decline. The themes of deterioration, hope, and time passing are very strongly symbolized by the garden, the well, and the portraits. The scarlet letter "A" that Hester wears is the most noticeable emblem in *The Scarlet Letter*, signifying not only her transgression but also her tenacity and resistance. Other symbolic aspects that express deeper ideas about sin, solitude, and salvation are Pearl, the forest, and the scaffold. The birthmark on Georgiana's face represents human imperfection and the fruitless pursuit of perfection in the novel *The Birthmark*. The narrative alludes to the perils of attempting to surpass human limitations and the ethical ramifications of scientific arrogance.

### **Historical Contextualization**

*The House of the Seven Gables* by Nathaniel Hawthorne is firmly grounded in the historical setting of 19th-century America, capturing the legacy of Puritanism and the turbulent past of the state. The 1851 publication of the novel explores the eerie legacy of hereditary guilt, emphasizing the how past transgressions can continue to haunt subsequent generations. The location, a dilapidated estate connected to land disputes and witch hunts, reflects the fears that were prevalent in Hawthorne's day over inherited riches, societal degradation, and the moral ramifications of unbridled ambition. Through his Gothic novel, Hawthorne explores themes of redemption and the cyclical cycle of history while criticizing the harsh moralism of early American society.

### **SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

Understanding how Nathaniel Hawthorne used symbolic components to communicate intricate subjects like guilt, vengeance, and the effects of ancestral sin is made possible by studying the symbolism in *The House of the Seven Gables*. The research sheds light on the manner in which Hawthorne examines social concerns including class divide, moral corruption, and the repercussions of avarice by delving into the symbols inherent in the story, such as the garden, the crumbling mansion, and numerous individuals. Through the analysis of these symbols, the research contributes to readers' understanding of the novel's many allegorical layers, providing insights into Hawthorne's examination of the human condition and his condemnation of Puritanism. This study also emphasizes how symbolism in literature is still relevant today and how effective it is at conveying thoughts that go beyond the literal word. A thematic and symbolic study of *The House of the Seven Gables* is crucial for literary studies and contemporary social discourse. This research provides fresh perspectives on the complex storyline of one of the greatest literary masterpieces and its enduring impact on readers and society. The purpose of this research is to improve readers' understanding of Nathaniel Hawthorne's creative powers through a critical examination of the themes and symbols present in *The House of the Seven Gables*. Understanding the intricate levels of symbolism allows for a more nuanced interpretation of the novel's narrative and artistic components.

This study calls for a critical reexamination of the novel's mainstream interpretations. By reexamining the book via contemporary critical lenses, it expands and challenges established scholarly opinions and encourages ongoing debate about Nathaniel Hawthorne's contributions to literature and place in the canon. The literary impact of the novel on subsequent works is clarified by this study. It looks at how Nathaniel Hawthorne's concepts and allegories have endured in modern writing, demonstrating the influence and inspiration that "The House of the Seven Gables" still has on writers and readers.

### **SYMBOLISM IN " THE HOUSE OF THE SEVEN GABLES "**

**A. The House** The House of the Seven Gables by Nathaniel Hawthorne is rife with symbolism, the most notable and complex of which is the titular home. The house represents time passing, the weight of ancestors' wrongdoing, and the moral rot that develops when greed and shame go unchecked. Hawthorne explores a number of themes with the mansion, including the possibilities for redemption, the corrupting influence of money and power, and the unavoidability of the past. 1. "The aspect of the venerable mansion has always affected me like a human countenance, bearing the traces of a long and sorrowful history." The mansion is first characterized as a "rusty, gloomy, and weather-beaten" building, underscoring its association with deterioration and the residual effects of previous transgressions. The somber ambience of the home is a reflection of the Pyncheon family's sordid past; they amassed their wealth on property that was illegally taken from Matthew Maule, a man who was wrongly charged with witchcraft. The building itself represents the far-reaching effects of that initial sin, casting a lengthy shadow over the Pyncheon family's subsequent generations, with its "seven gables, facing towards various points of the compass." Hawthorne embodies the terrible weight of guilt in the home, giving it nearly sentient qualities that intensify the symbolic. The home is characterized as "a great human heart, with a life of its own," implying that it serves as a live reminder of the moral degradation and immorality that run deep in the Pyncheon family. The family's spiritual deterioration is reflected in the physical degradation of the building, which confines people like Judge Pyncheon and Hepzibah due to their inherited guilt. "The House of the Seven Gables!—the very phrase has a thrilling effect on my imagination, and I could almost fancy that the old mansion itself is a sentient being, with a memory and a consciousness of its own." The idea of covert corruption is further highlighted by the contrast between the exterior and interior of the home. The facade of the mansion conveys an air of grandeur and respectability, while the interior is decaying and dismal, reflecting the rot and hypocrisy that lie under the surface. Mirroring the dual character of the house, Judge Pyncheon is inwardly corrupted by avarice yet maintaining a façade of respectability and accomplishment. The Judge, according to Hawthorne, "would probably have had no objection to this old Pyncheon House being torn down," demonstrating his disdain for the moral heritage of the family in the service of his own goals. The home also represents the potential for atonement and rebirth, especially in light of Phoebe's persona. Her presence infuses the dark mansion with energy and light, implying that the shadows of the past may be lifted. Despite being abandoned, the garden continues to show signs of life, suggesting that there is still hope for development and healing even under the shadow of the crumbling home. There's a sense that escaping the past's hold is achievable at the book's finale, when the Pyncheon family eventually moves out of the house. "The gables, with their peaked and shingled fronts, seemed to nod to each other, as if in acknowledgment of some secret understood among them."

### **Ancestral Guilt and Moral Decay**

The home itself serves as a powerful metaphor in Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The House of the Seven Gables*, signifying the themes of moral degradation, inherited guilt, and the impossibility of escaping the past. The novel's examination of these issues is intricately linked to the symbolism of the home, and a number of plot points provide significant insights into the house's thematic importance. The home is more than just a physical building; it also represents the Pyncheon family's lengthy history of injustice and greed. The novel describes the house as "a kind of monument to the grim old Puritanism" and notes its "gloomy grandeur" (Hawthorne, Chapter 1). According to this account, the home represents the moral decay of the family and the consequences of their ancestors' transgressions. The concept of hereditary guilt is emphasized by the way the mansion's condition of ruin reflects the internal degradation of the Pyncheon bloodline. The degradation of the mansion represents the moral and spiritual decline of the Pyncheon family. The house's symbolic meaning revolves around the curse attached to it. The storyteller narrates the lineage of the family: "In the deepest recesses of the old house, there were secret chambers, full of dismal dreams, and ghostly wanderings" (Hawthorne, Chapter 1). This curse is symbolic of the unavoidable fallout from the family's previous transgressions; it implies that the burden of ancestors' sins is heavy and will follow them into the future.

### **The Inescapability of the Past**

The home is a symbol for how the past controls the present and how it is unavoidable. The mansion itself serves as a continual reminder of the wrongs committed in the past, symbolizing the Pyncheon family's inability to move past the shadows of their past. The novel's protagonist, Hepzibah Pyncheon, is described as "a solitary woman in a house full of forgotten memories" (Hawthorne, Chapter 3). The uncomfortable home and its seclusion serve as a metaphor for how the past continues to loom big over the present, entangling the protagonists in a never-ending cycle of deterioration and hopelessness. The physical structure of the house, with its "moss-covered" and "crumbling" exterior, also symbolizes the persistence of the past and the difficulty of moving beyond it (Hawthorne, Chapter 7). The perception that the past is difficult to overcome or change is reinforced by the house's degradation, which is more than just a visual concern. It also reveals deeper problems inside the family.

### **Redemption and Renewal**

The home gives a glimpse of redemption and rejuvenation, even if it mostly represents decay and remorse. The first overgrown and neglected garden represents the possibility of fresh development and healing. The garden is maintained and rejuvenated as the narrative goes on, signifying the potential to overcome the limitations of the past. Associated with her rebirth, Phoebe Pyncheon stands for hope and the possibility of transformation. Her significance in representing a departure from the family's troubled past and a step towards a brighter future is connected to her presence and her attempts to bring life back to the garden.

### **B. The Garden**

The garden in Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The House of the Seven Gables* represents both deterioration and the possibility of rebirth, echoing the concepts of redemption and the legacy of ancestors' wrongdoing. Hawthorne's description of the garden as a place stuck between neglect and the potential for change makes this dichotomy clear. At first, the garden stands for the moral decay and declining finances of the Pyncheon family. When Phoebe Pyncheon first sees it, she notes how dilapidated it is: "The garden was a waste. A few straggling apple-trees, with a couple of half-dead rose-bushes, seemed to be the only things that had escaped the general dilapidation" (Hawthorne, *The House of the Seven Gables*). The Pyncheon family's moral and physical decline is reflected in this picture of neglect, which emphasizes the idea of hereditary guilt and the results of previous deeds.

Even in its deteriorated state, the garden remains a source of hope for healing and rebirth. Phoebe's endeavors to repair it underscore her function as a driving force for transformation and optimism in the story. Her work in the garden is described with optimism: "Phoebe... took a spade and began to clear away the weeds and to make a place for the new plants" (Hawthorne, *The House of the Seven Gables*). This metamorphosis represents the chance of escaping the cycle of degradation and the prospect of a fresh start, implying that redemption and rejuvenation are possible with hard work and constructive change. Furthermore, the resurgence of the garden is consistent with the Pyncheon family's storyline. The house starts to show signs of this good transformation as Phoebe revitalizes the garden. The garden's recuperation and the novel's conclusion are juxtaposed to highlight the notion of moving past the past and creating a new future. "The weeds and wildflowers, that had grown up around the house, seemed to have been fostered by the very breath of decay." The garden's metamorphosis from a representation of decay to one of regeneration is consistent with the novel's overarching theme, which holds that although the past may have a lasting impact, individual and group action may create a new direction.

### **C. The Pyncheon Family**

The Pyncheon family's symbolism in Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The House of the Seven Gables* highlights issues of moral decay, generational guilt, and the impossibility of escaping the past. The Pyncheons are essential to these topics, and the story delves deeply into the investigation of familial lineage and its ramifications through the metaphorical components linked to them.

#### **The House as a Symbol of Ancestral Guilt:**

*The House of the Seven Gables*, the ancestral house of the Pyncheon family, is the novel's most notable emblem. The home symbolizes the moral deterioration and depravity that the Pyncheon family has inherited with its dilapidated building and stifling atmosphere. Hawthorne writes, "It is a large, heavy-looking edifice, with a front as gloomy as the most ancient of the old-fashioned residences." The physical decline of the mansion is a reflection of the family's spiritual decline and the misdeeds of their ancestors. The home is a memorial to the corruption that has contaminated the Pyncheon family bloodline, as a result of their wealth being obtained via the exploitation and tyranny of others.

#### **The Garden as a Symbol of Potential Redemption:**

Though neglected, the garden represents optimism and the prospect of redemption in contrast to the house's ruin. Phoebe Pyncheon wants to rehabilitate the home and the family's moral status, which is reflected in her attempts to revitalize the garden. Hawthorne writes that Phoebe "filled her hands with the soil, and started a new bed" while describing her labors in the garden. This motif implies that, despite the family's troubled past, moral integrity and personal work may lead to a break from ancestral misdeeds and possibilities for rejuvenation.

#### **Characters as Symbols of the Family's Legacy:**

Different facets of the Pyncheon family's legacy are embodied by each of the characters. Hepzibah Pyncheon is a symbol of the bitterness and immobility brought about by the family's attachment to a tarnished past because of her sour and arrogant manner. Her grim perspective and efforts to uphold the family's standing serve as an example of what it's like to live with the load of ancestral shame. Hawthorne writes of Hepzibah, "She had not been in the world long enough to have known what it was to be driven by an anxious spirit." The emotional and moral fallout from the Pyncheon family's history is reflected in her loneliness and desperation. On the other hand, Phoebe Pyncheon represents purity and the possibility of a fresh start. Her presence brightens the home and adds warmth, which stands in stark contrast to the general melancholy. Phoebe is portrayed by Hawthorne as a figure who is "full of life and vivacity," implying that she has the ability to change the course of the family's history and overcome the corrupt tradition that has been passed down to her. "The house, like a living thing, had a memory, and a consciousness of its own, and was still haunted by the spirits of those who had lived and died within its walls."

#### **The Pyncheon Curse:**

The Pyncheon family's ongoing bad luck is used in the novel to present the idea of a familial curse. This curse symbolises the unavoidable repercussions of their ancestors' deeds and is a symptom of the family's unresolved guilt. The curse draws attention to the concepts of retribution and the inevitable impact of past crimes on the present.

#### **D. The Maule Family**

The Maule family in Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The House of the Seven Gables* is a powerful emblem of vengeance and the unavoidability of past transgressions. Their part in the story emphasizes themes of revenge, hereditary guilt, and the effects of past wrongs on the present.

#### **The Maule Family as a Symbol of Retribution**

The Maule family is a symbol for the results of injustice and the retaliatory nature of injustice. The historical resentment of Matthew Maule, who was wrongly convicted of witchcraft and put to death, is the cause of the family's downfall. The novel's examination of revenge is predicated on this grudge against the Pyncheons, who brought about his demise. Hawthorne used the Maule family as an example of how previous transgressions affect future generations. When Hepzibah Pyncheon reflects on the Maule family, she reveals the depth of their curse: "The old Pyncheon house had been a gloomy mansion ever since its origin. It was never a good place for a family to live in" (Hawthorne, *The House of the Seven Gables*). This quotation demonstrates how the Pyncheon heritage has been tarnished by the curse of the Maule family and the unjust persecution that preceded it.

#### **The Maule's Influence on the House**

The house's physical condition also reflects the influence of the Maule family. The house's deteriorating structure, which represents the Pyncheon family's moral and spiritual decline, is a physical manifestation of the Maule's curse. The mansion itself starts to represent the unavoidable punishment resulting from the sad past of the Maule family. The Maule family's retaliation is connected to the house's physical deterioration. For instance, when Hepzibah and Phoebe discuss the house's deteriorating condition, Hepzibah notes, "The house had been a gloomy mansion ever since its origin" (Hawthorne, *The House of the Seven Gables*). The continuous deterioration indicates that the curse placed on the Maule family is still in effect and that the past's transgressions are still having an influence on the present.

#### **Matthew Maule's Ghost**

The ghost of Matthew Maule represents the persistence of past wrongs as well as the notion that revenge and remorse are difficult to overcome. His ghostly presence keeps bringing to mind the wrongs done and the necessity of atonement every time he enters the dwelling. The novel's subject of past transgressions haunting the present is strengthened by the ghost's presence. Hawthorne describes the ghostly influence: "The ghost of Matthew Maule, with his unrelenting and unappeasable hate, was felt in every corner of the house" (Hawthorne, *The House of the Seven Gables*). This eerie presence represents the profound influence that the past still has on the present and the future.

## E. The Curse

Understanding the symbolism of the curse in Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The House of the Seven Gables* is essential to comprehending the novel's thematic investigation of hereditary guilt and vengeance. The curse, which is first mentioned in the novel, plays a significant role in the drama that develops throughout and is a powerful representation of the fallout from previous transgressions.

### The Curse as a Symbol of Ancestral Guilt

The notion of hereditary guilt is encapsulated in Matthew Maule's portrayal of the curse of the Pyncheon family. In reaction to the Pyncheons taking his land and putting him to death on false pretenses, Maule utters his curse. Hawthorne writes, "God will give you blood to drink!" (Hawthorne, 1851, Chapter 1). The moral and spiritual repercussions that the Pyncheon family will face as a result of their predecessors' transgressions are symbolized by this curse, which is heavy with the weight of previous injustices. The blood theme, which keeps coming up because of the curse, represents the impact of this guilt on the family and how unavoidable it is.

### The House as a Physical Manifestation of the Curse

The home itself is a representation of the curse and its all-encompassing power. The ruin of the mansion symbolizes the physical and moral decline that the Pyncheon family has experienced as a result of the curse. The house is described as having "an air of grave and solemn grandeur" (Hawthorne, 1851, Chapter 5), yet it is simultaneously "not very hospitable" and is filled with an "uncomfortable" atmosphere. This contrast demonstrates how the home represents the repressive legacy of the curse, entangling its occupants in a never-ending cycle of hopelessness and decay. The concept that the misdeeds of the past unavoidably haunt and alter the present is furthered by the mansion's ruin, which represents the moral and spiritual degradation inside the Pyncheon family.

### The Characters as Embodiments of the Curse

The characters' lives are also impacted by the curse, especially in terms of how the burden of their family's past affects them. Hepzibah Pyncheon is a prime example of how the curse affects certain lives as she is weighed down by the family's dark past. Her "pale and mournful" demeanor and "old-fashioned" clothing reflect her entrapment in the family's cursed history (Hawthorne, 1851, Chapter 7). On the other hand, Clifford Pyncheon, who is wrongfully incarcerated, symbolizes the terrible results of the curse since his life has been tarnished by past transgressions. His loss in mental and emotional health serves as yet another example of the damaging effects of inherited guilt.

### Redemption and the Breaking of the Curse

Phoebe Pyncheon is a symbol of hope and regeneration; her efforts have the ability to bring about salvation. Her presence in the home brings a contrasting vibrancy, implying that facing and conquering the past is necessary to end the curse's cycle. Hawthorne writes of Phoebe's influence: "The sunshine of her smile seemed to pervade every corner of the house" (Hawthorne, 1851, Chapter 15). Her capacity to breathe new life and warmth into the crumbling home suggests that, despite the curse's severe effects, it may be possible to overcome it and find redemption.

## F. Light and Darkness

The interplay of light and darkness in Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The House of the Seven Gables* is a deep representation of the novel's thematic examination of moral depravity, redemption, and the conflict between the past and the present. The narrative's atmospheric intensity is heightened by the symbolism of light and darkness, which also highlights the characters' personal difficulties and the moral quandaries at large.

### Darkness as Symbol of Guilt and Decay

The mansion itself is a well-known representation of evil, standing for the moral decline and ancestry of the Pyncheon family. The mansion has "a certain... grim and melancholy aspect," according to Hawthorne, and its "mellowed" appearance suggests a sordid and criminal past. The dark, gloomy ambiance of the Pyncheons' home is a reflection of their moral and spiritual decline as a result of their complicity in historical atrocities. The mansion's "dusky" hallways and "darkened" chambers are metaphors for the family's unresolved secrets and transgressions, which add to the story's overall atmosphere of melancholy and fatalism. "The old house seemed to settle and adjust itself, like a living creature, to the new inhabitant." For instance, when describing the house's interior, Hawthorne notes, "The dim, gloomy twilight of the house itself seemed to express a mournful sympathy with its occupants." This darkness represents the burden of passed-down shame and the feeling of being ensnared in the past. The story implies that the Pyncheon family's continuous suffering is caused by their unwillingness to acknowledge and make amends for their past transgressions.



### **Light as Symbol of Redemption and Hope**

On the other hand, light represents hope, rebirth, and the potential for salvation. The optimistic Phoebe Pyncheon illuminates the dark mansion with her youthful innocence and hope for transformation. Her presence is associated with brightness and warmth, as seen when Hawthorne describes her actions: "Her presence, wherever she went, seemed to light up the darkened corners of the house." The entrance of Phoebe and her attempts to revive the abandoned garden represent a fresh start and a departure from the Pyncheons' terrible past. Despite being initially overgrown and shaded by the mansion, the garden serves as a metaphor for an area where development and light may win against deterioration. "The little garden, which had been neglected for years, was now seen to be flourishing with a fresh and vigorous growth," as written by Hawthorne, exemplifies this metamorphosis. The idea that atonement and regeneration are still possible even in the wake of previous transgressions is furthered by this motif.

### **The Contrast Between Light and Darkness**

The novel's juxtaposition between light and dark emphasizes the conflict between the causes of moral decay and the prospect of salvation. The story's climactic moments are where the interaction of these symbols is most noticeable. The mansion is lit by the "sunshine of a bright summer morning" in the closing scene, for instance, symbolizing the eventual victory of light and optimism over the gloom of the past. The home represents the possibility of a fresh start and the lifting of the Pyncheon curse, as it changes from a symbol of decay to one of possible regeneration. "The sunshine might as well have tried to struggle through the dense and dusty atmosphere of a mine, as to penetrate the heavy, dark, and unyielding substance of the gables." The House of the Seven Gables by Hawthorne skillfully explores the theme of the inescapability of inherited guilt and the redemptive power of facing and conquering one's history via the use of light and darkness. The novel's moral and psychological insights are enhanced by the symbolism of light and darkness, which also reflects Hawthorne's interest in the relationship between morality, history, and the potential for personal growth.

### **COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS**

The House represents the shadowy past and how it continues to influence the present on the one hand. It also stands for the burden of unsolved disputes, secrets, and guilt. It is the embodiment of the idea of ancestral sin and how it affects the next generation. The Seven Gables, on the other hand, stand either the seven deadly sins or the seven virtues, emphasizing the conflict between good and evil as well as the complexity of human nature and the variety of personality traits. They can also represent the seven generations that the curse has impacted. In contrast to the gloomy, oppressive mood of the home, the garden symbolizes the hope of regeneration, development, and redemption as well as the ability of nature to heal and change. Conversely, the Pyncheon Family symbolizes the corrupting effect of riches and power, signifying the emergence of democracy and the demise of aristocracy. It also reflects the repercussions of greed, pride, and ambition. On the other hand, the Maule Family embodies the strength of resiliency and survival, represents the downtrodden and disenfranchised, and represents the fight for justice and equality. The Curse serves as a reminder of the need for responsibility and atonement while symbolizing the devastating force of unresolved disputes and unrestrained emotions. It also represents the concept that previous misdeeds may have permanent effects. When it comes to Light and Darkness, they aim to convey the dual character of human life and the conflict between opposing forces by symbolizing good and evil, truth and secrecy, and redemption and condemnation. The House of the Seven Gables by Nathaniel Hawthorne uses symbolism extensively to explore its topics. The house, the garden, and certain individuals are the main symbols. A comparative study of these symbols shows how they work together to emphasize themes of hereditary guilt, degradation, and redemption.

### **The House vs. The Garden**

In The home of the Seven Gables, the garden and the home serve as major symbols that present opposing viewpoints on the book's topics. The home represents the weight of ancestors' misdeeds and the moral degradation of the Pyncheon family with its deteriorating construction and stifling atmosphere. The ancient home, with all of its hideous and repulsive modifications, was more than just an object of sensation, according to Hawthorne (Hawthorne, Chapter 1). This account highlights the home as a living embodiment of the Pyncheon family's doomed history, implying that the mansion's architectural deterioration is a reflection of the moral decline of its occupants. The garden, on the other hand, stands for a place of hope and possibility for rejuvenation. It has the potential to regenerate and reborn despite its original neglect. The garden blossoms as Phoebe Pyncheon tends to it, signifying her function as a change agent. Hawthorne describes her efforts: "She was like a sunny day in autumn, which has given a gleam of summer to the landscape, and made the garden all the brighter and

more cheerful” (Hawthorne, Chapter 17). The garden's rebirth represents the potential for atonement and the mending of past hurts.

### Characters as Symbols

The home and garden are symbolized by Hepzibah Pyncheon and Phoebe Pyncheon, respectively. Hepzibah is a symbol for bitterness and immobility brought on by holding on to the past. Her existence in the dilapidated home is a reflection of her own incapacity to put her family's past behind her. Hawthorne writes, “She was the last of the race... the desolate survivor of the Pyncheon family” (Hawthorne, Chapter 1). Hepzibah's persona is enmeshed in the rot and sadness of the home, representing the burden of ancestors' remorse. On the other hand, Phoebe stands for life and the possibility of a fresh start. Her presence in the home and her initiatives to revitalize the garden represent a departure from the past and a bright future. As Hawthorne notes, “Phoebe Pyncheon, with her fresh young face, was the very emblem of the springtime of life” (Hawthorne, Chapter 14). Her persona stands in stark contrast to Hepzibah's, representing the potential to transcend the Pyncheon family's hereditary shortcomings.

### Comparative Insights

The home and garden's contrast, as well as the opposing representations of Hepzibah and Phoebe, draw attention to the novel's examination of how the past shapes the present. The promise for renewal in the garden is contrasted with the home, which represents inherited sin and deterioration. In a similar vein, Phoebe's character symbolizes the potential for change and atonement, whereas Hepzibah's character depicts the weight of past guilt. Hawthorne uses these symbols to build a story that highlights the necessity of both individual and societal atonement while also criticizing the devastating force of unresolved guilt. A comparative study of these symbols demonstrates how Hawthorne used them to examine the intricate relationships between the past and present, deterioration and rebirth, and the ethical implications of legacy.

### CONCLUSION

The House of the Seven Gables by Nathaniel Hawthorne delves deeply into the novel's central themes through symbolism, which include hereditary guilt, decay, and the possibility of redemption. The title home, with its dilapidated exterior and sordid background, represents the weight of transgenerational transgressions and the moral rot that brews when wrongs from the past go unpunished. The conflict between the aspiration for rebirth and the unavoidable impact of the past is brought to light by the contrast between the run-down mansion and the neglected garden. Hawthorne delves deeper on these ideas with characters like Phoebe and Hepzibah, who stand in for the potential of beginning again and Hepzibah for the stasis and bitterness of holding onto a tarnished history. All things considered, Hawthorne's use of symbolism highlights the larger human struggle to transcend the weight of history and seek atonement in addition to helping the reader better comprehend the moral and psychological aspects of the book. The House of the Seven Gables's Maule family symbolism deftly combines ideas of revenge as a cycle, hereditary guilt, and retribution. Hawthorne highlights the intergenerational cycle of misery caused by unsolved crimes and past injustices through the deteriorating mansion, the haunting power of Matthew Maule, and the Maule family's curse. As a result, the Maule family comes to represent the novel's investigation of the ways in which the past continues to influence and haunt the present. The House of the Seven Gables' symbolism illustrates how the Pyncheon family is deeply affected by ancestral guilt. The garden and figures like Phoebe provide a glimmer of hope and possible salvation, while the home represents the rot and decay passed down from previous generations. However, The House of the Seven Gables' curse symbolism well illustrates the book's themes of passed-down guilt and the results of previous transgressions. Hawthorne utilizes the curse to examine the unavoidable nature of ancestral misdeeds and the prospect of escaping their suffocating shadow via the physical deterioration of the home, the misery of its occupants, and the chance of redemption.

In The House of the Seven Gables, Hawthorne employs the garden as a powerful metaphor for both deterioration and rebirth. The novel shows how individual deeds and efforts may transcend the weight of the past and open the door to a better future by examining themes of redemption and the effects of ancestral sin via its portrayal. The House of the Seven Gables's symbolism is a complex and multidimensional component that highlights the novel's examination of moral deterioration, familial guilt, and the lasting impact of the past. Hawthorne used the home to highlight the significant influence of history on the present as well as the potential of redemption despite degradation through in-depth descriptions and thematic linkages. To sum up, the mansion in The mansion of the Seven Gables is a potent representation of the weight of history and the effects of sin. Hawthorne utilizes the mansion to examine how, over time, guilt, greed, and hypocrisy can corrupt families as well as individuals. However, he also implies that atonement and regeneration are possible through the

interaction of light and dark inside the home, even though they need facing and eventually fleeing the ghosts of the past.

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