Every person, thing, book, and idea has a purpose. The purpose whether good or bad affects the lives of people who come in contact with it. In *The Scarlet Letter* the author Nathanial Hawthorn tries to change the lives of people reading the book. He does this by leaving little hints here or there, not telling exactly what one is supposed to learn, but making one figure it out. There are symbols all over in the book that help the reader understand and see what is really going on, what is really being taught. Hawthorn manipulates sunshine to tell the reader don’t try to hide the truth, always be the person that is inside by showing who the characters really are, how they are perceived, and how they change.

The truth about who the characters are isn’t always said, sometime the reader has to look deep into the symbols and really think about what each means. In the forest Hester and Mr. Dimmesdale are talking while Pearl is standing far in the distance on the other side of the brook. “Yonder she is standing in a streak of sunshine…” (184). Pearl always has sun shining upon her because she isn’t hiding anything. She is being herself and is not afraid of how people will judge her. The sunshine is always on Pearl representing that God approves of her while later on in the book Pearl is represents that sunshine that always shone upon her. Hester went to visit governor Bellingham inside his palace; Pearl was standing by the window when Mr. Bellingham cried, “What little bird of scarlet plumage may this be? Me thinks I have seen just such figures, when the sun has been shining through a richly painted window, and tracing out the golden and crimson image on the floor,” (100). The relationship between Pearl and sunshine becomes apparent here. Pearl acts as sunshine to Hester, only approving of her at certain times. While Peal sometimes approves of Hester she rarely approved of Mr. Dimmesdale. In the forest Hester, Mr. Dimmesdale and Pearl are together, Mr. Dimmesdale gives pearl a kiss and…”Pearl broke away from her mother, and running to the brook, stooped over it, and bathed her forehead until the unwelcome kiss was quite washed off,” (191). Pearl washes off Mr. Dimmesdales kiss because she doesn’t approve of the man he is pretending to be. He is lying to the whole town making him an evil man. He is doing this because he is scared of how society’s views of him will change.

Everything that one does adds to the reputation they have, either helping or hurting it. As Mr. Dimmesdale was walking out of the woods he thinks about what he did to give him the reputation he has. “And the melancholy brook would add this other tale to the mystery with which his little heart was already overburdened,” (192). Mr. Dimmesdale has a reputation in the town of being a perfect minister never doing anything wrong, basically being a “perfect” person. As he is walking out of the woods he thinks about all the lies he is keeping from the town to try to protect his reputation. But really he is lying to himself and lying to God because he is not being truthful to the person he is. The sunshine never shines on him for this reason. On the other hand Hester has already told the truth to the town about her wrong doing but still the sunshine does not shine on her, God still doesn’t approve of her. “‘Mother’ said pearl ‘the sunshine does not love you. It runs away and hides itself, because it is afraid of something on your bosom,’” (165). The sunshine doesn’t shine on Hester because she is covering up who she really is. Hester sinned and has forgiven for that but she is still hiding her true self under the scarlet letter. Hawthorne is trying to show that sins are forgiven but living as someone your not is unforgivable. That point is proven very clearly with the help of pearl.“…She amused herself with gathering handfuls of wildflowers and flinging them, one by one, at her mother’s bosom, dancing up and down, like a little elf, when she hit the scarlet letter,” (89). Pearl sometimes represents sunshine to make hawthorn’s theme even stronger. Pearl jumping and dancing around when flower peddles hit the scarlet letter shows that God and Hawthorn have forgiven Hester from her sin’s, that the scarlet letter represented. The reason God didn’t approve of her was because she wasn’t being true to herself she was being the person she thought she needed to be because for the scarlet letter on her bosom.

People can change throughout life either learning to live with their mistakes or learning to overcome them. Hester overcomes her mistake for a while when she is in the forest; she takes off the scarlet letter and lets down her hair, she stops covering up who she really is. “All at once, as with a sudden smile of the heaven, forth burst the sunshine, pouring a very flood into the obscure forest, gladdening each green leaf, transmuting the yellow fallen ones to gold, and gleaming adown the gray trunks of the solemn trees,” (183). God started approving of Hester because she decided to move on from her mistakeand stopped covering up for so long. “The sun…shone done upon the clergyman…as he stood out from all the earth, to put his plea of guilty at the bar of Eternal Justice,” (227). God suddenly started approving of him because he was telling the truth. He finally faced his fear and told the truth not caring about how society’s views of him would change. He just did it because he knew it was the right thing to do. Pearl showed her approval of him also. When he was done telling the whole town what he did, he was on his deathbed when “Pearl kissed his lips,” (229). Hawthorne’s theme becomes very clear here as the early she washed Dimmesdale’s kiss off and now she gives him a kiss. Pearl approves of the man he left the world as because he left the world with no lies on his heart.