**Report #1**

During these few weeks, the TL proudly studied Witch Hunts, and it is now an amazing summary of the work done.

So what are the origins of the witch hunt? How is it related with the puritans? Who are the puritan? And finally, in what way*The Scarlett Letter* refer to the Salem Witch Hunt? You will find out right now.

**1- Origins of the Puritains**

* ***ORIGINS OF THE PURITANS:***

In the website document we have been told that, from England on the Mayflower, the **Pilgrim Fathers,** who were the first English settlers, landed in Plymouth, Massachusetts, USA, around 1630 to establish one of the first thirteen colony in the New World. The Massachussets state belongs to New England region.

The Pilgrims Fathers were puritans, which means they were very serious with religion, for instance, adultery was considered as a sin and was severely punished (*The Scarlett Letter*). The Pilgrims fled from England to the New World to escape the persecution and pactice their religion freely.

Between 1630 and 1643, around 9,000 Puritans migrated to the colony and established towns and farms in Massachusetts. **John Winthrop** led the first colony where « *a city of a Hill*»was established after an agreement of the Pilgrims to be an example of good behavior for the whole world.

A way to institute laws and orders in the colonies.

Inspired by the settlers events and their way to create orders in their community, especially in Salem, **Nathaniel Hawthorne, (1804-1864)** the most famous American author wrote, *The Scarlett Letter. The novel,* refers to the Salem trial which took place in 17th century. Hawthorne’s grand father was one of the judge who sentenced twelve women convicted of witchcraft and made them excecuted.

2-**Witch hunt/The Salem witch trials** **inspired...**

***WONDER OF THE INVISIBLE WORLD:***

A witch hunt, is an expression used in the 17th century to refer to the mass hysteria women hunt suspected of witchcraft by people in a community.

The witch hunt had been an inspiration since many years for novels writers, movies directors... This myth about witches and the deeply strict moral is representative of those times.

The second document, is a cover of an account of several women convicted of witchcraft and executed in New England in 1693. This account is entitled *The Wonders of the Invisible World* and was written by **Cotton Mather**. It wouldn't be a horrible supposition to think that Nathaniel Hawthorne read the trial's accounts and used them as an inspiration for *The Scarlett Letter*. Moreover, **Cotton Mather** who was the main judge of the Salem witch trials, worked with Hawthorne’s grand father on the trials.

* **3. The Scarlet Letter and the atmosphere of those times.**

***THE SCARLET LETTER:***

The Scarlet Letter is a 1850 novel by Nathaniel Hawthorn (1804-1864). It is a romantic one as well as a historical and religious fiction inspired by the Salem witch trials.

The story relates how a young women, Hester Prynne has been accused of adultery and how she, and her lover, were punished for it. The plot is simple : One day while her husband is out at sea, someone comes to tell her he drown and will never come back. Learning this, Hester Prynne succumbs to the charming reverend (after all, her husband is supposed to be dead), but it turns out her husband is still alive. Then  she gets pregnant and the whole village learns about it. To punish her, they decide to make her wear a scarlet A on her bosom (« A » would stand for Adultery). Her husband decides to find out who Hester slept with. Once he finds out, he tells the whole village and the reverend is hanged. At the end, Hester's husband decides to give some money to Hester newly born child.

The themes of the book are: good and evil, guilt, hypocrisy, fate, free will, religion, women emancipation. It shows how the community established their own justice through religion. Indeed, Showing the Salem Trials inspiration, Hester is treated as if she was a witch. She is branded of the letter « A » on her bosom to be recognized as an adultery sinner by the towns people and the local governement.

The bgreeook quickly became a classic and has been adapted many time as musicals, movies, TV Series and plays.

The picture we studied is from the 1926 movie adaptation of *The Scarlet Letter.* We see Hester Prynne who is holding tight her baby, is standing on a scaffold to be publicly humiliated.

**What if everything was linked ?**

Every document makes us think on how a community establish law and order. Indeed, the puritans had a very strict and severe religious way of life. Indeed, everyone who didn’t fit in was judged and sentenced in a trial, fairly, or not, as the Salem witch trial.

It is a part of the which hunt, this term denotes a sinner hunt. But there's also the fact that both witches and sinners were judged in an unfair trial which was ended by an inevitable death.

In conclusion, Are the Manichean (manichéen)puritans mind to break everything down into Good and Evil led to a disaster , such as the witch hunt in Salem ? Is a timeless issue ?

green : new vocabulary

red : gram point

Comments :

Pretty good job !!!! but a search of Historical sources was needed to complete the report.

The report had to be organized into several clear parts as well as the contents. It must be crystal clear .