**Class Schedule**

1. Vocab Bingo (15 mins)
2. Opening Activity (10 mins)
3. Read extract (10 mins)
4. Comprehension questions (15 mins)
5. Read through new vocab (10 mins)

**Vocabulary Bingo!**

* Spot check on definitions, antonyms and synonyms of last week’s words (use the words in sentences)

**Opening Activity**

*Match the word to the definition!*

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| 1. Edifice
2. Colony
3. Utopia
4. Congregate
5. Congenial
6. Inauspicious
7. Petrify
8. Augur
9. Indubitable
10. Transgress
 | 1. Impossible to doubt; unquestionable
2. A country that is in control or occupied by settlers from another country
3. Make someone so frightened that they are unable to move
4. A large, imposing building; a complex system of beliefs
5. Someone who is pleasing or liked because they have similar qualities or interests to yours
6. An imagined world in which everything is perfect
7. Not conducive to success; unpromising
8. To predict a good or bad outcome of an event
9. Go beyond the limits of what is acceptable (socially, morally, legally)
10. To gather into a crowd
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The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne

A **throng** of bearded men, in sad-colored **garments**, and gray, steeple-crowned hats, intermixed with women, some wearing hoods and others bareheaded, was assembled in front of a wooden **edifice**, the door of which was heavily timbered with oak, and studded with iron spikes.

The founders of a new **colony**, whatever **Utopia** of human virtue and happiness they might originally project, have **invariably** recognized it among their earliest practical necessities to **allot** a portion of the virgin soil as a cemetery, and another portion as the site of a prison. In accordance with this rule, it may safely be assumed that the forefathers of Boston had built the first prison-house somewhere in the **vicinity** of Cornhill, almost as **seasonably** as they marked out the first burial-ground, on Isaac Johnson's lot, and round about his grave, which subsequently became the **nucleus** of all the **congregated** **sepulchres** in the old churchyard of King's Chapel. Certain it is, that, some fifteen or twenty years after the settlement of the town, the wooden jail was already marked with weather-stains and other indications of age, which gave a yet darker aspect to its beetle-browed and gloomy front. The rust on the **ponderous** iron-work of its oaken door looked more antique than anything else in the New World. Like all that **pertains** to crime, it seemed never to have known a youthful era. Before this ugly edifice, and between it and the wheel-track of the street, was a grass-plot, much overgrown with burdock, pigweed, apple-peru, and such **unsightly** vegetation, which evidently found something **congenial** in the soil that had so early borne the black flower of civilized society, a prison. But, on one side of the portal, and rooted almost at the threshold, was a wild rose-bush, covered, in this month of June, with its delicate gems, which might be imagined to offer their fragrance and fragile beauty to the prisoner as he went in, and to the **condemned** criminal as he came forth to his doom, in **token** that the deep heart of Nature could pity and be kind to him.

This rose-bush, by a strange chance, has been kept alive in history; but whether it had merely survived out of the stern old wilderness, so long after the fall of the gigantic pines and oaks that originally over-shadowed it,-or whether, as there is fair authority for believing, it had sprung up under the footsteps of the sainted Anne Hutchinson, as she entered the prison-door,-we shall not take upon us to determine. Finding it so directly on the threshold of our **narrative**, which is now about to issue from that **inauspicious** portal, we could hardly do otherwise than pluck one of its flowers, and present it to the reader. It may serve, let us hope, to symbolize some sweet moral blossom, that may be found along the track, or relieve the darkening close of a tale of human **frailty** and sorrow.

**Chapter 2

The Market-Place**

The grass-plot before the jail, in Prison Lane, on a certain summer morning, not less than two **centuries** ago, was occupied by a pretty large number of the inhabitants of Boston, all with their eyes intently fastened on the iron-clamped oaken door. Amongst any other population, or at a later period in the history of New England, the grim rigidity that **petrified** the bearded **physiognomies** of these good people would have **augured** some awful business in hand. It could have **betokened** nothing short of the anticipated execution of some noted **culprit**, on whom the sentence of a legal **tribunal** had but confirmed the **verdict** of public sentiment. But, in that early severity of the Puritan character, an **inference** of this kind could not so **indubitably** be drawn. It might be that a sluggish bond-servant, or an undutiful child, whom his parents had given over to the civil authority, was to be corrected at the whipping-post. It might be, that an Antinomian, a Quaker, or other heterodox religionist was to be **scourged** out of the town, or an idle and **vagrant** Indian, whom the white man's fire-water had made riotous about the streets, was to be driven with stripes into the shadow of the forest. It might be, too, that a witch, like old Mistress Hibbins, the bitter-tempered widow of the magistrate, was to die upon the gallows. In either case, there was very much the same **solemnity** of **demeanor** on the part of the spectators; as befitted a people amongst whom religion and law were almost identical, and in whose character both were so thoroughly interfused, that the mildest and the severest acts of public discipline were alike made venerable and awful. **Meagre**, indeed, and cold was the sympathy that a **transgressor** might look for from such by-standers, at the scaffold. On the other hand, a **penalty**, which, in our days, would infer a degree of mocking infamy and ridicule, might then be invested with almost as stern a dignity as the punishment of death itself.

**Comprehension Questions**

1. Summarise the extract in a few sentences.
2. What is the tone of this novel in Chapter One?
3. Who is narrating this story, and what is their relationship to the reader?
4. When is this novel set?
5. How would you characterise the society described in this extract?

**Vocabulary**

* *Define each word, put it into one of four categories (noun, adjective, verb or adverb) and, where applicable, note down a synonym or antonym.*
1. Throng
2. Garments
3. Edifice
4. Colony
5. Utopia
6. Invariable
7. Allot
8. Vicinity
9. Seasonable
10. Nucleus
11. Congregate
12. Sepulchre
13. Ponderous
14. Pertain
15. Unsightly
16. Congenial
17. Condemn
18. Token
19. Narrative
20. Inauspicious
21. Frailty
22. Century
23. Petrify
24. Physiognomy
25. Augure
26. Betoken
27. Culprit
28. Tribunal
29. Verdict
30. Inference
31. Indubitable
32. Scourge
33. Vagrant
34. Solemn
35. Demeanour
36. Meagre
37. Transgress
38. Penalty

**Homework**

* Revise the vocabulary we have learned today.
* You are a judge, and it is your responsibility to decide whether or not the people brought before you are guilty. Write a report on a particularly difficult case that you have seen that day.