1. How does the setting add to the meaning of the story: sunset and night, dreary road, gloomiest trees, narrow path creeping through? How does this imagery create the **mood**? How does this mood foreshadow the nature of Young Goodman Brown’s journey?

2. Why does Faith wear pink ribbons?

3. Discuss the significance of the second traveler and why he and Young Goodman Brown “might have been taken for father and son.” Is he Brown’s father? His alter ego?

4. When the fellow traveler states, “I have been well acquainted with your family…I helped your grandfather, the constable, when he lashed the Quaker woman so smartly through the streets of Salem…The deacons of many a church have drunk wine with me; the select men of divers town make me their chairman; and the majority of the Great and General Court are firm believers of my interest,” what do we begin to understand about him? Through his character, what is Hawthorne saying about evil?

5. Discuss the meaning of the encounter with Goody Cloyse. “…and in the very image of my old gossip, Goodman Brown, the grandfather of that silly fellow that now is.”

6. After Goodman Brown refuses to go any farther, the traveler throws him the maple stick and leaves. What is the significance of this action?

7. After the minister and Deacon Gookin ride by, what happens to Goodman Brown? Why is this significant? What does Goodman Brown mean by this statement: “With heaven above and Faith below, I will yet stand firm against the Devil!”

8. What does the black mass of cloud symbolize?

9. Discuss the meaning(s): “My Faith is gone!”

10. What did Goodman Brown see when he arrived at the meeting? What does Hawthorne mean when he writes that the good “shrank not from the wicked”?

11. The dark figure states, “Welcome, my children, to the communion of your race. Ye have found thus young your nature and your destiny.” What is the meaning of this?

12. How does Goodman Brown treat people the next day? What happens to him? Why?

13. In allegories, characters are usually personifications of abstract qualities. For example, a charater could represent a human trait or behavior. With that in mind, discuss the significance of the names “Young Goodman Brown” and “Faith.”

14. “Young Goodman Brown” is a moral allegory. Essentially, an allegory is an extended metaphor—using one thing to represent another—a story with dual meanings. Therefore, there is a surface or literal meaning as well as a secondary meaning. In other words, Hawthorne uses this moral allegory to reveal a moral lesson or lessons. What moral lesson or lessons do you think Hawthorne wants the reader to discover?