The Scarlet Letter Handout

**At the Break of Day (Hester Prynne)**

*Hester is overcome with a desire to protect infant daughter Pearl from the uncertainties of future*

Time slowly passes

I wait through this night

And out of the darkness

I’m drawn to your light

Hoping not to awaken your luminous sleep

Your face in the moonlight

Is a memory off key, forever—

Will you know when the morning comes

Will you feel the light of the sun on your face

Will you hear the birds crying out in the white winter sky

Will you wake at the break of day

Will you feel the whispering wind in this place

Will you see the symbol I wear

Will you understand why

Something is stirring

Something is waking

Something inside me just grew

I will protect you

I’ll try to teach you

All the things I never knew

And maybe the answers that I cannot give

Will be given when answers are due

You are the daybreak

You are my beacon

The light in the distance is you

I will know when the morning comes

When the moonlight is gone without leaving a trace

And I know there’s nowhere to hide

We will live in the sun

When I wake at the break of day

I’ll remember this night and the light on your face

Now a new light is dawning

I am free in the morning

But my sentence has only begun

**Small Reminders (Arthur Dimmesdale)**

*Dimmesdale is haunted by memories*

Long, long ago

Little hands are picking roses

Little hands as white as snow

You are just one small reminder

Of the reason I can’t go

I see her in the garden

Why can I not breathe

My heart wilts

And every second I grow weaker inside

And my pain comes from memories of the forest

And the garden planted there

Memories of wild roses

Braided in her auburn hair

Mosaic of sunlight

Dancing everywhere

Promise of forever

That is more than I can bear

Tiny footsteps in the garden

Happy chatter in the air

You are just a small reminder

Of the reason why I care

In the garden picking roses

Small reminders grow up fast

At this moment

What your future

Are you haunted by my past