

HSB 41

These questions are designed to help you identify important themes in each week's readings. Be prepared to discuss them in your section meetings.

1. In *The House of Seven Gables* what is Hawthorne's view of how the past and the present relate to each other? Is this a novel about being haunted by the past?
2. In *The House of Seven Gables* how do Clifford's and Judge Pyncheon's views of the value of property compare?
3. Does it matter whether there is an actual House of Seven Gables?
4. Why does James have trouble finding The House of Seven Gables?
5. Show how objects, places and buildings in *The House of Seven Gables* characterize changes seen by Hawthorne's Generation? Compare the role of three pairs of objects: the daguerreotype and the portrait; the scent shop and the kitchen; and the organ grinder versus the fountain. Is Hawthorne deliberately using these objects to comment on change over time?
6. What else might objects in the novel represent?