In “Hester Prynne: Sinner , Victim, Object , Winner,” Andrea Seabrook states, “Hester Prynne can be seen as Hawthorne’s literary contemplation of what happens when women break cultural bounds and gain personal power…In *The Scarlet Letter* , Hester Prynne may seem a victim and an object, but she also shows great personal strength. She survives.”

You may read the entire Seabrook essay if you wish, but your paper should reflect your own ideas, examples, and analysis.

<http://www.npr.org/2008/03/02/87805369/hester-prynne-sinner-victim-object-winner>

Consider whether you believe that Hester is a “sinner,” a “victim,” an “Object,” but ultimately a “winner” **What victory does she gain in her struggle against society’s gender norms?**

Some ideas to consider:

* How Hester breaks cultural bounds and gains/ does not gain personal power
* How her society responds to her breaking cultural gender norms
* How Hester achieves victory ( or not) , either temporarily or permanently