**Sample Supporting Paragraph Using OEA Structure**

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| **Thesis Statement for Passage:**  ***Throughout “Young Goodman Brown,” Hawthorne uses chiaroscuro to symbolize the struggle between good and evil taking place within Goodman Brown’s own heart and mind.*** |
| **Topic Sentence:** As Goodman Brown makes his way through the path in the woods, light and dark imagery is used frequently to highlight the internal moral dilemma facing him. |
| **Observation:** Hawthorne’s initial description of the trees surrounding the path emphasizes the dark nature of Goodman Brown’s journey and the path into spiritual decay. |
| **Evidence:** “He had taken a dreary road, darkened by all the gloomiest trees of the forest, which barely stood aside to let the narrow path creep through, and closed immediately behind” (272). |
| **Analysis:** The image of Goodman Brown entering the dark, foreboding forest alone at the start of this journey symbolizes his first steps away from his religious beliefs—he is rejecting the light of his faith and instead choosing to explore the darkness. He does not know where this “dreary road” will lead him or what he will find at the end of it—but in these early moments of the story, Brown seems to be more intrigued than terrified by the apparent evil of the darkened woods. |
| **Observation**: After Brown has gone very deep into the forest, he has a moment of apparent doubt and guilt, and he looks up to heaven to pray to help him resist the temptation of evil that the forest represents. |
| **Evidence:** “While he still gazed upward into the deep arch of the firmament and had lifted his hands to pray, a cloud, though no wind was stirring, hurried across the zenith and hid the brightening stars. The blue sky was still visible except directly overhead, where this black mass of cloud was sweeping swiftly northward” (278). |
| **Analysis:** In this moment, Hawthorne uses the image of the darkening clouds covering the last glimpses of the blue heavenly sky to symbolize Brown’s last attempt to remain true to his faith. He looks upward, but the light of the sky is quickly covered by the dark clouds, showing how any spiritual belief or morality he may have started the journey with have been overshadowed by his willingness to continue down this evil path. He cannot see the light anymore—his faith, at least for the moment, is hidden away from him. |
| **Concluding Sentence:** In these two key moments of the story, Hawthorne uses the juxtaposition of light and dark imagery to highlight Brown’s struggle between continuing down the dark road towards evil or returning to his faith. |

**Sample Supporting Paragraph**

**Thesis: Throughout “Young Goodman Brown,” Hawthorne uses chiaroscuro to symbolize the struggle between good and evil taking place within Goodman Brown’s own heart and mind.**

As Goodman Brown makes his way through the path in the woods, light and dark imagery is used frequently to highlight the internal moral dilemma facing him. Hawthorne’s initial description of the trees surrounding the path emphasizes the dark nature of Goodman Brown’s journey and the path into spiritual decay. As he begins his journey, the narrator states that “he had taken a dreary road, darkened by all the gloomiest trees of the forest, which barely stood aside to let the narrow path creep through, and closed immediately behind” (272). The image of Goodman Brown entering the dark, foreboding forest alone at the start of this journey symbolizes his first steps away from his religious beliefs—he is rejecting the light of his faith and instead choosing to explore the darkness. He does not know where this “dreary road” will lead him or what he will find at the end of it—but in these early moments of the story, Brown seems to be more intrigued than terrified by the apparent evil of the darkened woods. Later in the story, after Brown has gone very deep into the forest, he has a moment of apparent doubt and guilt, and he looks up to heaven to pray to help him resist the temptation of evil that the forest represents. He stops walking, and “while he still gazed upward into the deep arch of the firmament and had lifted his hands to pray, a cloud, though no wind was stirring, hurried across the zenith and hid the brightening stars. The blue sky was still visible except directly overhead, where this black mass of cloud was sweeping swiftly northward” (278). In this moment, Hawthorne uses the image of the darkening clouds covering the last glimpses of the blue heavenly sky to symbolize Brown’s last attempt to remain true to his faith. He looks upward, but the light of the sky is quickly covered by the dark clouds, showing how any spiritual belief or morality he may have started the journey with have been overshadowed by his willingness to continue down this evil path. He cannot see the light anymore—his faith, at least for the moment, is hidden away from him. In these two key moments of the story, Hawthorne uses the juxtaposition of light and dark imagery to highlight Brown’s struggle between continuing down the dark road towards evil or returning to the light of his faith.