

## *“Dr. Heidegger’s Experiment” by Nathaniel Hawthorne*

**Read the paragraph below. Use a dictionary if you need to. Make notes about what you’re reading: character, setting, mood.**

**Then answer the 2 open-ended responses on the next page. You must explain your answer and support it with evidence from the text.**

If all stories were true, Dr. Heidegger's study must have been a very curious place. It was a dim, old-fashioned chamber, festooned<sup>1</sup> with cobwebs, and besprinkled with antique dust. Around the walls stood several oaken bookcases, the lower shelves of which were filled with rows of gigantic folios and black-letter quartos, and the upper with little parchment-covered duodecimos. Over the central bookcase was a bronze bust of Hippocrates, with which, according to some authorities, Dr. Heidegger was accustomed to hold consultations in all difficult cases of his practice. In the obscurest corner of the room stood a tall and narrow oaken closet, with its door ajar, within which doubtfully appeared a skeleton. Between two of the bookcases hung a looking-glass, presenting its high and dusty plate within a tarnished gilt frame. Among many wonderful stories related of this mirror, it was fabled that the spirits of all the doctor's deceased patients dwelt within its verge, and would stare him in the face whenever he looked thitherward. The opposite side of the chamber was ornamented with the full-length portrait of a young lady, arrayed in the faded magnificence of silk, satin, and brocade, and with a visage as faded as her dress. Above half a century ago, Dr. Heidegger had been on the point of marriage with this young lady; but, being affected with some slight disorder, she had swallowed one of her lover's prescriptions, and died on the bridal evening. The greatest curiosity of the study remains to be mentioned; it was a ponderous folio volume, bound in black leather, with massive silver clasps. There were no letters on the back, and nobody could tell the title of the book. But it was well known to be a book of magic; and once, when a chambermaid had lifted it, merely to brush away the dust, the skeleton had rattled in its closet, the picture of the young lady had stepped one foot upon the floor, and several ghastly faces had peeped forth from the mirror; while the brazen head of Hippocrates frowned, and said,--"Forbear!"

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<sup>1</sup> Adorned, decorated, draped

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**You can infer much about people by rummaging through their place.**

1. What do you think of Dr. Heidegger? (What kind of a man is he?) Explain and support your answer with evidence from the text. Keep your answer inside the box. Do not add lines inside the box.


2. What does Dr. Heidegger look like? Explain and support your answer with evidence from the text. Keep your answer inside the box. Do not add lines inside the box.
