

Name _____

“Dr. Heidegger’s Experiment” – Honors Sophomore English

1. For the following characters, indicate **what they were known for during** the prime of their life and **what ruined them**.

	<u>Prime of life</u>	<u>What ruined them/their reputation</u>
Mr. Medbourne		
Widow Wycherly		
Mr. Gascoigne		Young people forgot him
Colonel Killigrew	enjoyed the sensual pleasures of life	

2. What do each of the three men have in common? (Other than they are old gentlemen and have white beards)

3. Explain why Dr. Heidegger has brought them all together (What is the experiment he is conducting?)

4. What happened to Dr. Heidegger’s fiancée? Be specific.

5. Before starting the experiment, what does Dr. Heidegger remind each of his guests? (What advice does he give them?)

6. List three elements of the supernatural found in Dr. Heidegger's study.

- a.
- b.
- c.

7. The story could be read as an allegory, a story in which people, objects and events represent abstract qualities. The four guests in "Dr. Heidegger's Experiment" are not realistic, fully developed characters. Instead, they seem more like representations of ideas. **Allegories** are written not only to entertain but also to teach lessons or moral principles.

Identify an abstract quality or idea that each of the four guests in the story might represent:

Character	What he or she loses/wastes	What happens when he/she is given a second youth	What he or she might represent
Mr. Medbourne	Wealth	Schemes to make money again	greed
Col. Killigrew			
Mr. Gascoigne			
Widow Wycherly			

8. The narrator is deliberately unclear about whether the guests are actually restored to youth. What do you think? Support your answer.

9. At the end of the story, where do the four resolve to go? Why?

10. What theme is Hawthorne expressing in this story?