

# *Contents*

<i>Chapter One</i>	
The Nature of Reality	13
<i>Chapter Two</i>	
The Nature of Artistic Illusion	50
<i>Chapter Three</i>	
Hawthorne's "Allegory"	71
<i>Chapter Four</i>	
Plot as a Vehicle of Symbolic Meaning	94
<i>Chapter Five</i>	
Hawthorne and the Comic Spirit	132
<i>Conclusion</i>	156
<i>Notes</i>	162
<i>A Selected Bibliography</i>	172