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Everything is Not What it Seems
Allegory Analysis

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ABSTRACT
Have you ever woken up from a nightmare, only to find the heart-pounding terror stayed with you long after the dream was over? This was the case in Young Goodman Brown, where a kind-hearted man is exposed to the evil in people. Allegory is a reference to a certain scenario or theme with a hidden meaning. Throughout this story, a great deal of allegory is used to expose the flaws in mankind.

KEY POINTS
● Story overall is an allegory in relation to “Fall of man” as well as innocence.
● Devil’s staff- serves as a biblical reference expressing power, similar to that of Moses
● Rejection of staff expresses Brown’s unwillingness to surrender to the evil in the world
● Faith Brown- References to her serve as an allegory to his own strength
● Faith’s pink ribbon- Indicates Brown’s faith and innocence as well as his complete loss of faith in humanity.
● Young Goodman Brown and Faith Brown’s relationship are an allegory to that of Adam and Eve.

CONCLUSION
At first Young Goodman Brown is seen as a simplistic individual, who believes everyone is good at heart. However, the author incorporates his views over mankind by including several allegorical references throughout the story, showing that everyone is indeed evil at heart. I, however, believe that everyone is good at heart, and its an individual’s life experiences that shapes the coldness within their heart.

Indeed Hawthorne perfectly uses the skillful talent of allegory to express his own views in this story as well as others, such as the Scarlett Letter and The Tale of Seven Gables, both of which would serve for fundamental research ideas for allegory.

Works Cited