

Summer Reading 2017

8th Grade Humanities

1. Novel: *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* by Elizabeth George Speare

- This book is historical fiction based on a time in history that we will be studying first semester. As you read each chapter in the novel answer the questions provided below. These questions will guide you as you read and help you remember details as we discuss the book when you return to school. We will test on this book after class discussion. Bring your completed questions to class during the first week of school.

Have a safe summer!

The Witch of Blackbird Pond

by Elizabeth George Speare

Chapter 1

1. Name the ship. _____
2. Where is Kit going? (Be specific.)
3. Why is she going there?
4. What is the name of the Captain's son? _____
5. What was so unusual about what Kit did when the child's toy fell into the water?
6. Kit met a man named John Holbrook aboard the ship. For what profession was he training? _____
7. What was John's opinion of Barbados and the West Indies?
8. What is Goodwife Cruff's opinion of Kit?

Chapter 2

1. Describe the Cruff family.
2. Describe Kit's relationship with her grandfather.
3. Describe Kit's life in Barbados.

4. What kind of life does Prudence lead?

5. Why does John Holbrook give this warning about Kit's aunt Rachel: "Don't forget, your aunt has been away from England for a long time."

6. Describe how Kit and Nat are getting along?

7. How does John Holbrook feel about the type of books Kit reads?

Chapter 3

1. Describe Kit's first impression of Weathersfield.

2. Why would Nat's last words to Kit be, "Remember, only the guilty ones stay afloat"?

3. What was Kit's first impression of the Wood family?

4. What was their first impression of her?

5. How many trunks did Kit bring? _____

Chapter 4

1. Describe the difference between how Judith and Mercy reacted to all of Kit's belongings.

2. What kind of work did Mercy do?
3. What was the real reason Kit had to come to America?
4. Describe some of the other jobs the girls had to perform during the day.
5. How does Judith feel about Kit?
6. Describe what Uncle Matthew did every night after dinner.

Chapter 5

1. Describe Kit's experience at the Sunday morning meeting. (the people, the Meeting House, their reaction to her, etc.)
2. What are Sabbath Houses?
3. Why did the thought of Sabbath Houses upset Kit?

Chapter 6

1. Give Rev. Bulkeley's opinion of the king and of the possibility of war.
2. Explain Matthew Wood's opinion of the possibility of war.
3. What change did Kit notice in John Holbrook since they had met on the ship?
4. How does Judith feel about John Holbrook?
5. How do the others regard Mercy? How does Kit regard her?
6. Who want to come and call on Kit? _____
7. What does Judith imply when she says, "He was just about to make it (his mind) up, too, when you came along"?

Chapter 7

1. Describe the scene when William Ashby came to call on Kit.
2. About what did Matthew and William disagree? What was each one's opinion?
3. William has started building his house. What do you think this means?

Chapter 8

1. Describe how the meadows made Kit feel.
2. Who is Hannah Tupper?
3. What animals live with Hannah? _____
4. What work did the girls perform in the meadows? _____
5. What exciting news did Mercy have for Kit when she returned home?
6. What did Mercy tell Kit about children in the family other than Judith and herself?

Chapter 9

1. On what did the children write? _____
2. What two things were printed in these? _____
3. What did the children collect to use in place of the costly paper? _____
4. Who did Kit feel when she was with the children?
5. The class was made up of a total of _____ children. _____ small boys and _____ girls ranging from _____ to _____ years of age.
6. What indulgence had begun on the second day that cause Mercy to worry?
7. What was kit's idea about how to tell the story of the Good Samaritan? (Hint: it got her in trouble.)

Chapter 10

1. Name three things Rachel tells Kit about Quakers.

1)

2)

3)

2. As what did Mathew Wood label John Holbrook? _____

3. What do they make Hannah pay taxes for not doing? _____

4. What unexpected guest came to see Hannah while Kit was there? _____

5. How does Hannah think of her husband? _____

6. How did both Kit and Nat meet Hannah?

7. What is Hannah's magic cure for everything? _____

Chapter 11

1. Who secretly left flowers at the door of the schoolroom? _____

2. Why had Prudence never gone to school?

3. Where did Kit teach Prudence to read and write?

4. For what reason do people say Hannah is a witch?

5. During the nightly reading, what did Kit discover about Mercy?

Chapter 12

1. What did Kit help Nat do for Hannah? _____
2. Describe what happened to Hannah and her husband.
3. What did Matthew forbid Kit to do? _____

Chapter 13

1. John and Kit meet on the road and discuss Hannah. What does John think of Hannah and witchcraft?
2. *What do you think of witchcraft?*

Find two verses in the Bible that tells what God thinks about witchcraft. Cite the verses and tell what you think they mean.

1)

2)

3. Why did John decide not to go to the husking?
4. What “mix-up” happened after John spoke to Matthew?
5. About what did William want to speak to Uncle Matthew?
6. What did the red ear of corn mean?

Chapter 14

1. What did Kit discover about fall in New England?
2. Kit observes her uncle in a 'rare' moment. What does she see?
3. What ship show up and who does Kit want to see?
4. Nat brings supplies for which house and what name does he call Kit?
5. Why is the family upset about Governor Andros?

Chapter 15

1. What does Judith know about William that Kit does not know?
2. What does revoking the charter mean?
3. Who and what woke everyone in the middle of the night?
4. What did realize about Uncle Matthew?

Chapter 16

1. On what was it that the people of Connecticut were no longer able to decide?
2. What happened to William Ashby's house and who were the ones responsible?
3. How did they have to pay for their crime?
4. When Kit saw Nat, how did she feel?
5. As a result of this upsetting morning, what did Kit miss?
And, who did she go to see?
6. Hannah and Kit discuss three topics during their visit. What were they?
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)
7. Kit decides to make something for Hannah, and she decides to teach something to Prudence. What were they?
 - 1) Hannah--
 - 2) Prudence—
8. John Holbrook makes a major decision about his life. What is this decision?

Chapter 17

1. What terrible thing happens in the colony?
2. Who in Matthew's family becomes ill?

3. Who does everyone blame for this sudden plague of illness?
4. What do the townspeople decide to do about it?
5. The people also tell Matthew to look after the witch in his household. What does this mean?
6. What does Kit do to try to save Hannah?
7. What happens to Hannah's house?
8. Who just happened to be coming down the river? What did he do for Hannah?
9. Why did they have to go back?

Chapter 18

1. Goodwife Cruff comes to Matthew's house. What two accusations does she make?
 - 1)
 - 2)
2. What tangible evidence did they have to support their accusation?
3. Where did they place Kit until her trial?
4. Who is the only one who came to support her at the shed?

Chapter 19

1. Who helped Kit pull herself together before the trial?
2. Kit was hoping someone would come to the trial to help. Who did she wish to see?
3. What were the accusations against Kit?
4. Who supported Kit against these accusations?
5. What evidence was produced during the trial?
 - 1) Intangible evidence—
 - 2) Tangible evidence—
6. What test did the people suggest for Kit?
7. Who were the two heroes who came to Kit's rescue?
8. How did they prove the accusations to be false?
9. When Kit is no longer in danger, how did Goodwife Cruff respond? (Who does she lash out against?)
10. Who finally 'found his voice' and took charge of his household?

Chapter 20

1. What was the occasion that got Mercy out of bed?
2. Describe the difference in the way Mercy and Judith think of the snow.
3. According to Aunt Rachel, what rumor was William spreading?
4. According to William, how are we judged?

Do you agree or disagree with William? Defend your opinion!

5. What was the first festivity Weathersfield had enjoyed since the sickness?
6. What news did the two militiamen bring about John Holbrook?

Chapter 21

1. On a Lecture Day in April, what two marriage intentions were announced?
2. For what did Kit plan to use her dresses?
3. What did Kit suddenly realize that she wanted?
4. What was the name of Nat's new ship?
5. Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why or why not?