

THE WITCH OF BLACKBIRD POND

LIVING LITERATURE SERIES

ELIZABETH GEORGE SPEARE

A PERMA-BOUND PRODUCTION

TEACHER'S GUIDE

GUIDE WRITTEN BY MARY ELLEN SNODGRASS

This guide was prepared using the Dell Yearling edition, © 1986. Other editions may differ.

SYNOPSIS

Chap. 1: In mid-April 1687, Katherine "Kit" Tyler gamely books passage for Wethersfield, a sparse, backwoods Puritan community in the colony of Connecticut. Aboard the *Dolphin* on the 43-mile journey upriver from Saybrook harbor to Wethersfield, she encounters the pious humorless Cruff family and John Holbrook, a young man who anticipates studying theology and medicine with Dr. Bulkeley. In contrast to the negative New England Puritans, Nat Eaton, first mate and son of the captain, seems more encouraging.

Chap. 2: Kit has known a loving home in Barbados with her grandfather, Sir Francis Tyler, since her parents drowned off Antigua. Nat is alarmed that the family owned over a hundred slaves and takes pride in his family's refusal to trade in human flesh. John is surprised that Kit can read and that she disdains pious literature. The next morning, the *Dolphin* completes the nine-day passage to Wethersfield landing. Mrs. Cruff snubs Kit for being a stranger in town. Captain Eaton is surprised that Kit received a letter from her aunt Rachel Wood six months before and that she doesn't know that Kit is coming.

Chap. 3: On arrival at High Street, Kit startles her aunt Rachel, who thinks Kit is her mother Margaret. After breakfast, Kit informs Rachel and Matthew Wood that she has come to stay because her grandfather died debt-ridden four months before after being swindled by Bryant, his plantation overseer, who sold off their crop the previous winter. Kit sold her slave girl to pay passage.

Chap. 4: Rachel leaves to take bread to the Widow Brown. Judith and Mercy, Kit's cousins, admire her clothes, which arrive in seven trunks. Kit gives embroidered gloves to her cousins. Rachel tries on a bonnet, but Matthew disapproves of frippery and charity. For four hours, Kit helps with the chores by carding wool. She divulges another reason for her departure, the pressure of an older gentleman to marry her. Judith complains at having to share a bed with Kit.

Chap. 5: After Matthew insists Kit attend Sunday services, she is out of place in the meeting house. In contrast to somber Puritan dress, she seems like a tropical bird. She dislikes sour piety and is dismayed that there is an afternoon service. She quickly draws the eye of William Ashby, a likely beau whom Judith has also been admiring.

Chap. 6: Dr. Gershom Bulkeley takes Sunday dinner with the Wood family. He angers Matthew by questioning Kit's loyalty to King James. Mercy asks Bulkeley to read to them. The Reverend passes the privilege to John. When William and John Holbrook begin to pay court, Judith quickly abandons William and pursues John. Mercy holds little hope of attracting a boy because of a handicap, which resulted from a disease that crippled and weakened her.

Chap. 7: Kit chafes at courtship from William, who arrives

at 7:00 P. M. on Saturday. John also visits the girls. William plans to build a house on land his father gave him three years before and has been appointed Viewer of Fences. Matthew rails against King James, who threatens to revoke privileges gained from King Charles. At 8:00, William and John depart. Kit despairs at the sameness of each day and the hard work the family expects of her.

Chap. 8: In early June, Matthew sends Judith and Kit to weed the onion field. Kit notices Hannah Tupper's house on Blackbird Pond. Judith declares that Hannah may be a witch. Bulkeley recommends that Kit open a dame school that summer. Eleazer Kimberley, the schoolmaster, tests her ability. Mercy tells Kit about her two brothers who died in infancy.

Chap. 9: Kit leads six pupils in oral readings from their primers. She meets with the schoolmaster's opposition to innovative methods, which include poems, storytelling, and play-acting scenes from the Bible. In frustration with local condemnation, Kit runs to the meadow to cry. She encounters Hannah, a widowed Quaker. Branded on her forehead by stiff-necked Puritans, she lives quietly in the house her husband Thomas built. She encourages Kit, who returns to town and knocks at Kimberley's door.

Chap. 10: Mercy is surprised at Kit's boldness. Rachel warns that Hannah may not be as harmless as she seems. Judith's love for John is obvious. Two weeks after the first visit, Kit returns to Hannah's cottage to report that she got a second chance at teaching. Hannah notes that Kit has stopped smiling. Hannah displays the flax thread she spins to earn enough to pay taxes and fines and buy necessities. She welcomes Nat Eaton, who brings a keg of molasses.

Chap. 11: In midsummer, Prudence Cruff leaves flowers at the doorstep. In secret from her disapproving mother, Kit has begun to teach her to read from a hornbook at Hannah's cottage. William immerses himself in house building; John reads aloud the poems of Anne Bradstreet. Kit realizes that Mercy loves John.

Chap. 12: School ends in mid-August. On a free afternoon, Kit returns to Hannah and finds Nat, whom she helps to thatch Hannah's roof. Kit surprises him with details about Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. He explains how Hannah and Thomas were jailed for months in Massachusetts. Kit and Nat return and find the family worried about her absence. William denounces Hannah as a heretic and forbids Kit to visit her.

Chap. 13: Judith advises Kit to accept William. John scolds Kit for visiting the Quaker witch. Kit ridicules gossip about witches. John looks forward to seeing Mercy at the husking bee. He stays home with her instead of attending the social. Matthew misunderstands and pledges Judith to John. William is encouraged to ask for Kit, but she declines.

Chap. 14: In October, the *Dolphin* returns. Nat sends some woollen cloth to Hannah. Judith scolds Kit for befriending common people. Matthew is concerned that Edmond Andros is arriving to become Connecticut's governor.

THE WITCH OF BLACKBIRD POND

Chap. 15: Men argue over the governor's challenge to their charter. William sides with Matthew about the colonists' rights. Andros makes a formal appearance. On All Hallows' Eve, William awakens the family in the night to announce that the charter is safe.

Chap. 16: When the *Dolphin's* crew put pumpkin heads on William's house, the authorities fine them and place them in the stocks. Nat is unrepentant about his part in the fun. Kit informs Hannah that he is banished from town. Kit determines to sew Hannah a dress and begins teaching Prudence to write. John enlists in the militia as its doctor.

Chap. 17: Five days later, a mysterious fever strikes the Wood family, endangering Mercy's life. Dr. Bulkeley applies onions to her chest. Townspeople burn Hannah's house to stop the spread of disease, for which they blame Hannah and Kit. Kit tries to rescue the old woman, who at first refuses to run. They hide in the woods until dawn, when the *Dolphin* appears off Wright's Island. Nat takes Hannah to his grandmother at Saybrook and offers to take Kit. She refuses to leave Mercy, who is recovering.

Chap. 18: Kit thanks Matthew for standing up to the mob in her behalf. The Cruff family charges Kit with bewitching Prudence. It is the first case of sorcery in twenty years. The constable locks Kit in a shed on his property, where she lies alone in darkness imagining the horrors of execution for sorcery.

Chap. 19: At the hearing, Nat produces Prudence, who testifies that she has not been bewitched and that Kit has only taught her to read and write in the copybook. She proves her skill by reading from the Bible, thereby softening her father's suspicion. The Crufts withdraw their charge. Kit declines to accuse Mrs. Cruff of slander.

Chap. 20: By winter, Mercy is well. Kit ponders whom she should marry. William chastises Kit for choosing the wrong friends. News of an Indian attack and John's capture causes Judith to faint. William carries her to his sleigh to drive her home. After John returns from a period of captivity with Indians, he hurries to Mercy.

Chap. 21: In April, John is pledged to Mercy; Judith announces her engagement to William. Kit considers selling her dresses to pay passage to Barbados. She longs for Nat's return. When he arrives and shows off his new purchase, a ketch named the *Witch*, he convinces her to accept his proposal of marriage and to live aboard his ship.

TIME LINE

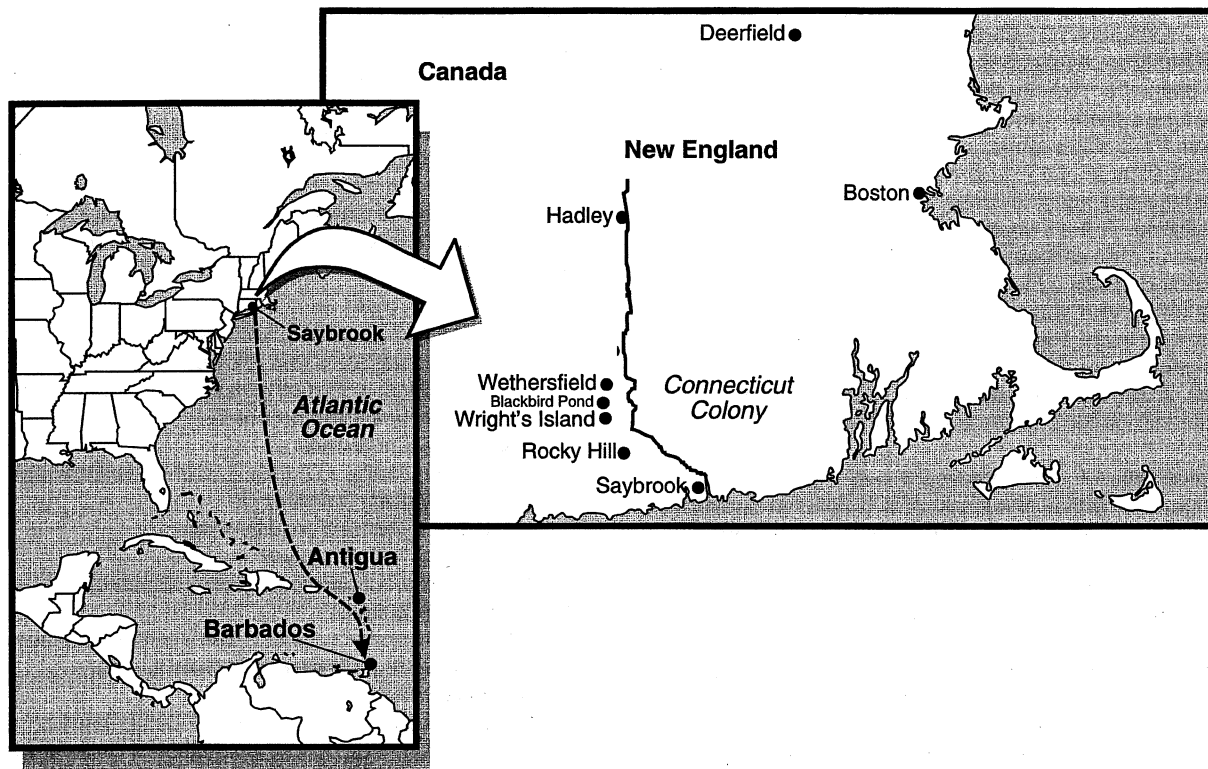
- 1630s** European colonists settle Connecticut.
- 1633** Traders found Hartford.
- 1637** Settlers defeat Indians in the Pequot War.
- 1640-49** English Civil War pits Charles I against Parliament.
- 1649** Parliament convicts Charles I of treason and executes him. England becomes a republic.
- 1660** English monarchy is restored with Charles II as king.
- 1662** King Charles II grants Connecticut a charter of self-government.
- 1667** The people of Wethersfield execute a witch.
- 1670s** Kit Tyler's family drowns off Antigua.
- 1681** King Charles II charters Pennsylvania to Quaker William Penn.
- 1684** William Ashby receives land for a house.
- 1685** James II comes on the throne.

- 1686** **November** Kit receives a letter from her Aunt Rachel.
winter Bryant cheats Kit's grandfather.
December Kit's grandfather dies.
- 1687** She books passage from Barbados to Connecticut.
eight days after arrival in the colonies Kit jumps overboard to rescue Prudence Cruff's doll.
the next day The ship docks in Wethersfield.
after breakfast Kit informs the Woods that she has come to stay.
for four hours She helps with the chores by carding wool.
Sunday At services, she stands out in bright island dress.
at dinner The Rev. Gershom Bulkeley angers Matthew at dinner by questioning Kit's loyalty to King James.
7:00 P. M. Saturday Kit chafes at courtship from William and John.
8:00 P. M. William and John depart.
early June Judith and Kit weed the onion field.
summer Kit leads six pupils in oral readings from primers, but loses the job because of innovative methods that offend Puritans.
later Hannah encourages Kit, who asks for another chance.
two weeks later Nat Eaton brings Hannah a keg of molasses.
midsummer Kit teaches Prudence to read at Hannah's cottage.
mid-August School ends. Kit helps Nat thatch Hannah's roof and declines William's courtship.
October Nat sends woolen cloth to Hannah. Governor Andros makes a formal appearance.
Oct. 31 William rescues the charter. Nat puts pumpkins in William's house.
Nov. 1 After a period in the stocks, Nat is banished from town.
Nov. 6 Fever strikes the Wood family, endangering Mercy's life.
later Townspeople burn Hannah's house. Nat takes Hannah to his grandmother at Saybrook. The Cruff family charges Kit with bewitching Prudence.
that afternoon The constable locks Kit in a shed.
at the hearing Nat brings Prudence to testify that Kit taught her to read and write in the copybook. The Crufts withdraw their charge.
winter Indians capture John.
- 1688** **April** John returns to Mercy; Judith announces her engagement to William. Nat sails back in the *Witch* and proposes to Kit.
Dec. 10 King James is driven from the throne.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Winner of the Newbery Award for young adult fiction in 1963 and 1967, Elizabeth George Speare, a native New Englander, lives in Fairfield, Connecticut. Born November 21, 1908, in Melrose, Massachusetts, she is the daughter of engineer Harry Allan and Demetria Simmons George, a lively woman who treated Speare and her brother to visits and concerts in and around Boston as well as hikes, picnics, and summers at the beach. Unstructured time allowed her to

THE WITCH OF BLACKBIRD POND



read, think, and dream up plots for books.

A scribbler from childhood, Speare always intended to write, but postponed her ambition until after she had graduated from Smith College, acquired an M. A. from Boston University at age 24, and taught high school English for five years at Rockland and Auburn. She married industrial engineer Alden Speare in 1936, moved to Wethersfield, Connecticut, and raised two children—Alden, Jr., and Mary Elizabeth—to junior high age before recording on paper the stories that grew in her mind. In addition to her eight books she has contributed articles to *Better Homes and Gardens*, *Horn Book*, *Woman's Day*, *American Heritage*, and *Today's Health*.

CRITIC'S CORNER

Speare completed her first book in 1957 and won an ALA citation for it and subsequent works. Later awards include two International Board on Books for Young People citations, a Society of Colonial Wars award, an American Institute of Graphic Arts Children's Books award, New England Round Table award, NCTE Teacher's Choice and Booklist Children's Reviewers Choice selections, *School Library Journal* award, New York Times Outstanding Book, Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction, and a Christopher Award. Her success with historical fiction derives from her immersion in pre-Revolutionary New England heritage, which she observes as relatively unchanged since the arrival of the Pilgrims. She is noted for careful research, which requires a year or more of gathering material before she frames a book. Consequently, critics laud her use of historically accurate detail as well as her compelling narrative gift and professional style. The Newbery committee records a unanimous vote for her most famous work, *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*, the

story of a West Indies native who befriends an elderly Quaker woman accused of witchcraft. Her manuscripts reside in Boston University's Mugar Memorial Library. Her works are available on disc recording, cassette, and sound filmstrip.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. To examine the structure and style of historical fiction
2. To enumerate the conventions of a journey motif
3. To isolate examples of individuality
4. To identify themes of loyalty, endurance, and compassion
5. To discuss forms of intolerance and superstition
6. To analyze religious tyranny
7. To explain colonial handicrafts
8. To discuss threats to New World freedom
9. To account for the Cruffs' hatred and slander

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To describe Kit's reason for not informing her aunt of the voyage to Connecticut
2. To assess character flaws in Puritans aboard ship
3. To determine the challenges to Kit's new life in Connecticut colony
4. To evaluate young men who interest Kit and her cousins
5. To follow the sequence of events after Mercy's illness
6. To explain why the authorities insist on cruel punishments for Halloween pranks
7. To discuss the importance of Hannah and Prudence to Kit's maturity
8. To account for the bonding between Hannah and Nat
9. To describe how Nat risks punishment to save Kit from execution

THE WITCH OF BLACKBIRD POND

10. To relate Kit's future happiness to the freedom of the sea

LITERARY TERMS AND APPLICATIONS

For a better understanding of Elizabeth George Speare's novel, present the following terms and applications:

bildungsroman literally a "formation novel," which describes the coming-of-age of an untried or naive youth. The emergence of Kit and her cousins parallels similar growth and individuality in John Holbrook, William Ashby, and Nat Eaton. The six young people cope with hard times, disease, and civic disturbance in Wethersfield. John manages to flee captivity by Indians, William constructs a house for his bride, and Nat purchases a vessel as a home and livelihood for himself and Kit. The girls learn home and social skills, gardening, and health care. By the time they are all betrothed, they have survived enough upheaval to have lost their innocence and to know what they expect out of marriage.

complication the rising action; the beginning of a conflict or entanglement that is the focus of a fictional or dramatic action, as in the arrival of a Barbadian who knows nothing of Puritanism or poverty. From the beginning, Kit demonstrates survivalism by selling her slave to pay passage to Connecticut and fitting in with her cousins in poor surroundings where food is simple and work is harsh and demanding. To add to her difficulties, she must learn to obey or suffer the consequences, particularly when she befriends an outcast Quaker suspected of witchcraft. Speare makes no effort to cleanse Connecticut of persecution and narrow-mindedness. By story's end, she confers on Kit a married life that compromises time spent with a loving companion at sea, in the West Indies, and on trading trips to New England.

historic milieu the historical, political, or geographic setting of events in a period of history, as in the rustic Connecticut colony, where the arrival of a pompous new English governor and his entourage of Red Coats arouses fears that settlers will lose their original royal charter. The raising of a militia, conflict with Indians, and captivity indicate the surrounding hostility beyond the growing settlement. Other issues that set the novel in a specific period include slave trading, witchcraft, trading vessels, and religious intolerance of Puritans toward Quakers.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SETTING

The milieu of *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* moves seasonally from early spring into a heavy and confining winter. Kit, accustomed to island ways, warmth, and financial security, must acclimate to a confining home, where coarse clothing, simple food, and chores lessen her enjoyment of her aunt's family. The rustic cooking methods, weeding an onion field, and dipping candles into tallow force Kit to work as the slaves had in Barbados. She comes to appreciate her family's sacrifices on her behalf, but regrets a life that is bound by toil.

As the question of betrothal hangs over the cousins, Kit has difficulty imagining herself wed to a fat, elderly island man, a Puritan minister, or a local landowner who is building a fine house. Her experiences with Hannah teach her the importance of treasuring a home provided by a loving husband. After Kit is jailed in a shed for witchcraft, she begins to appreciate a fourth choice, Nat Eaton, whose life at sea seems to preclude a wife and family.

After fever threatens her cousin's life, a mob burns Hannah's home, and floodwaters inundate the land, Kit still pon-

ders where she fits in this unfriendly colony. Because John and William take her cousins for wives, she returns to inward contemplations of marriage. She is surprised by Nat's return aboard a neat ketch, which he names indirectly for her and intends to use as home and business. The establishment of Kit's future at sea answers the questions raised by her difficult time in New England. As mistress of the *Witch*, she can return to the West Indies, call in at ports like Charlestown, Wright's Island, and Saybrook harbor, then return to her relatives in Wethersfield without accepting their Puritanic lifestyle. Thus, setting provides the answer to her future happiness.

CROSS CURRICULAR-SOURCES

For more information about Elizabeth George Speare, Connecticut, Puritans, and other subjects and issues deriving from the novel, consult these sources:

Capstone Editors, *Connecticut*

Kieran Doherty, *Puritans, Pilgrims, and Merchants: Founders of the Northeastern Colonies*

Shirley Jackson, *Witches of Salem Village*

Also, consult these web sites:

"Battle of the Books," <http://www.lincolnschool.org/Libraries>.

"Elizabeth George Speare,"

http://www.indiana.edu/~eric_rec/ieo/bibs/speare.html.

"First Church of Christ," <http://www.firstchurch.org>.

"The First Half Century,"

<http://www.easthamptonstar.com/980528/hist4.htm>.

"Historical Fiction," http://www.co.seminole.fl.us/library/kids/kids_historical.html.

"Newbery Award," <http://www.sjpl.lib.ca.us/youth/x-newber.htm>.

"The Quaker Faith," <http://www.quaker.org/friends.html>.

"Quakers in Belief,"

<http://www.cryst.bbk.ac.uk/~ubcg09q/dmr/intro.htm.com/s/shanmonster/witch/flying.html>.

"Religious Society of Friends,"

<http://www.cryst.bbk.ac.uk/~ubcg09q/dmr/intro.htm>.

"Wethersfield Historical Society," <http://www.wethhist.org>.

THEMES AND MOTIFS

A study of the central issues and situations in Elizabeth George Speare's *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* should include these aspects:

Themes

- journey
- frustration
- menial labor
- initiative
- intolerance
- superstition
- rebellion
- persecution
- escape
- self-knowledge
- love

Motifs

- coping with a repressive religious community
- developing friendships beyond the family
- contemplating marriage
- taking responsibility for the vulnerable
- planning a self-directed future

THE WITCH OF BLACKBIRD POND

MEANING STUDY

Below are words, phrases, sentences, or thought units that have particular meaning in the novel. Explain each. Chapter and page numbers note the context from which the item is taken.

1. On a morning in mid-April, 1687, the brigantine *Dolphin* left the open sea, sailed briskly across the Sound to the wide mouth of the Connecticut River and into Saybrook harbor. (Chap. 1, p. 1)
(Captain Eaton directs his two-masted cargo vessel from Barbados to New England and into fresh water leading 43 miles upriver to Wethersfield. The top-heavy brigantine or brig sported square rigging and square topsails. Unlike heavier merchant ships, it was the vessel of choice for spies, privateers, slavers, blockade runners, and pirates, who employed oars and sails for maneuverability and rapid flight.)
2. "Barbados!" He stared. "The heathen island in the West Indies?" (Chap. 1, p. 11)
(To a colonial Puritan, Barbados symbolized everything that somber, fun-hating Puritans despised. John Holbrook reacts with shock to Kit's native land, a prosperous, pleasant British island in the West Indies north of the Equator. He connects it with an unsavory reputation, which includes voodoo worshipers, casual island ways, and lax, immoral behavior.)
3. "You are not a Puritan then?" (Chap. 1, p. 12)
*(Puritans were a religious group that began during the Reformation; they sought to "purify" the Church of England of elaborate worship practices, doctrine, and clerical hierarchy. Puritans called for a church directly rooted in Scripture and sought to Christianize all aspects of life. Their beliefs called for a devout personal and family life; Puritanism, though often thought of as intolerant and narrow-minded, did consider hard work and self-discipline to be important. They also placed a high emphasis on education. Many Puritans migrated to the English colonies in America to avoid persecution by the Church of England.
Puritans, most notably Oliver Cromwell, were among the Parliamentary leaders that opposed Charles I during the Civil War. Following the defeat of the king, Puritans used their dominant position in the Army to seize control of the government and execute Charles I. Internal strife among the Puritan leadership as well as public resistance to their attempts to regulate many aspects of private life led to the collapse of the republic and the restoration of the monarchy in 1660.)*
4. "Puritan? You mean a Roundhead? One of those traitors who murdered King Charles?" (Chap. 1, p. 12)
(Kit brashly reveals her political leanings by referring to Puritans by their English slang name. Puritans espoused a simple personal life and disdained fancy clothes and the elaborate wigs and hairstyles preferred by English aristocrats. The close-cropped haircuts of Puritan men led to their being nicknamed "Roundheads.")
5. A true witch will always float. The innocent ones just sink like a stone. (Chap. 1, p. 13)
(One of the seventeenth-century tests of witchcraft involved blistering with a hot iron, another required placing the accused in water. If the alleged witch floated, a judge found the person guilty and ordered execution for

practicing sorcery. If the alleged witch drowned, the court immediately exonerated the accused from charges, even if it was too late to restore life.)

6. Mercy was the pivot about whom the whole household moved. (Chap. 6, p. 64)
(Kit quickly observed the special place Mercy holds in her family's affections. Because she is lame and weak and must miss the pleasures of youth, she often gets her way in matters that would be denied to other girls. Kit notes that "she coaxed her father out of his bitter moods, upheld her timorous and anxious mother, gently restrained her rebellious sister and had reached to draw an uncertain alien into the circle.")
7. Matthew Wood, after baiting John with fierce questions that threw the young student into confusion, had scornfully labeled him a "young toady with no mind of his own." (Chap. 10, p. 102)
(Matthew is a typically judgmental Puritan. He tests John Holbrook and finds him lacking in comparison to William Ashby. Whereas William is affable and mature in his opinions, John is less eager to express his mind and relies on the thoughts of his mentor, Dr. Bulkeley, as a guide.)
8. Whatever Dr. Bulkeley thought about Quakers, John would think so too. (Chap. 10, p. 102)
(John disdains the Society of Friends, a religious group George Fox founded in England around 1650. The society based their worship on a rejection of all violence, including war. The services have no formal rites or liturgy. Long periods of silence precede individual statements of faith spoken at will by any worshipers wishing to verbalize their thoughts. In colonial times, Quakers inveighed against the importation and sale of slaves. During the Civil War, Quakers spearheaded the Underground Railroad movement by offering barns and hidden rooms to runaway slaves until the danger of patrollers and bounty hunters had passed.)
9. "Such things are best not mentioned," her husband silenced her. "All Saints' Day is a papist feast." (Chap. 16, p. 164)
(Matthew Wood implies that Halloween, the night preceding All Saints' Day, is sinful by connection with Catholicism, which Puritans despise because Catholics follow rule by a pope. Currently, All Saints' Day, which falls on November 1, is a religious observance honoring parishioners and others who have died in the previous year.)
10. They were two Wethersfield men returned from Massachusetts with the detachment of militia. (Chap. 20, p. 232)
(Connecticut depends on a local garrison of army as a police force and standing guard. The militia accepts volunteers who stand ready to defend the community any time danger threatens, particularly from Indians.)

COMPREHENSION STUDY

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important and you should be ready to defend your answers.

Questions 1-5 (Literal Level)

1. How do Kit's experiences aboard the *Dolphin* suggest that life among Puritans will not be easy?
(Kit discovers that colonial religion and superstition oblit-

THE WITCH OF BLACKBIRD POND

erate hospitality and welcome to strangers. When four Puritan passengers board the brigantine at Saybrook harbor for the 43-mile journey upriver to Wethersfield, Kit learns firsthand their sour, fun-hating nature. Goodwife Cruff scolds her scrawny daughter for losing her doll overboard and condemns Kit for rescuing it.

Kit is not dismayed by her first encounters with Puritan judgments. The disapproval of the Crufts as well as the remonstrances of John Holbrook, the future student of Reverend Bulkeley, lead her to prefer the company of the ship's crew. Her frank appraisal of Puritan demeanor results in her rejection of Goodwife Cruff as a dining partner: "Ugh, . . . that sour face of hers will curdle my food."

2. What chores fill Kit's days during Mercy's illness?

(William Wood is impressed by how loyally and dutifully Kit fulfills the role of a daughter of the household while Mercy falls ill with fever. Immediately, Kit fills the warming pan to spare Mercy a chill from her corner bed. To relieve her overworked aunt, already wearied with the vigil at Mercy's bedside, Kit cooks the meals, "cursing the clumsiness that she had never taken the pains to overcome." She builds a fire and fetches and heats water for washing so Mercy can have fresh linen. In addition, she makes gruel for Judith and dries her uncle's wet clothes before the fire. Speare notes, "At night she dozed off, exhausted, and woke with a start sure that something was left undone.")

3. What event causes John Holbrook to change his goals?

(When community events demand readiness, John Holbrook joins the militia as its doctor. On the trail down the Connecticut River, he finds answers to his emotional unrest. In contrast to his former insecure self, he returns from captivity among Indians with a steadier eye and a note of strength in his formerly unstable voice. He acknowledges Dr. Bulkeley's scholarship and character, but he decides to accept his teacher's opinions only on the subjects of the theology and medicine. To questions of politics and religion, John determines to "think as I please." By June, he considers himself ready to serve a small parish to the southwest. His future life includes Mercy, whom he embraces on his return to Wethersfield.)

4. What are Nat's crime and punishment?

(After a night of mischief in Wethersfield following All Hallows' Eve, Nat and other crew of the Dolphin are in the constable's custody. On the door of the Meeting House, the constable posts Nat's crimes and punishment for public perusal. Matthew reports to the family, "They put lanterns in the window frames that are waiting for the new panes. Lanterns made out of pumpkin heads, with candles inside, and unholy faces cut in the sides to show the light." Matthew considers the act blasphemy to be "dealt with severely.")

Kit waits two days until she can find out how the community upbraids such impudence. For stealing pumpkins and setting a fire in a dwelling, Nat and the other culprits must sit in the stocks for an hour before Lecture till one hour after. Also, they must pay a fine of forty shillings each and will suffer thirty lashes at the whipping post if they return to Wethersfield.)

5. How does Kit assist Hannah?

(Kit realizes the shortcomings of Hannah as old age dims her eyes and weakens her for the hard chores of living alone in the wilderness. When Nat cuts swamp grass with a scythe to thatch Hannah's roof, Kit gathers it into bundles. She follows Nat up the ladder, spreads bunches of thatch, and holds them in place while he fastens them with vines.

The night the mob threatens the old Quaker, Kit runs ahead to steer her to safety. At first Hannah refuses to leave, but she relents as the noise of the mob approaches. Until dawn, Kit keeps her safe at the water's edge from searchers. When the Dolphin approaches, Kit swims out to ask Nat's help. After Hannah is safely rowed to the ship, Kit remains her friend and asks about her welfare.)

Questions 6-8 (Interpretive Level)

6. What do the children derive from visiting Hannah?

(In contrast to the constant criticism of Puritans, the children receive acceptance and encouragement from Hannah. At her humble cottage, she speaks gently, emphasizing the healing quality of nature and the contentment in stroking a soft kitten. She soothes Kit's homesickness and Prudence's insecurity with blueberry muffins, a gourd of goat's milk, and the simple treasures she has collected in the house that Thomas built for her. She offers homespun wisdom to assuage each child's longing. In her simple philosophy, the answer lies in the heart. The best way for the children to find their way in the world is to listen.)

7. Why does Kit assume that Mercy and John are right for each other?

(When Kit meets Mercy, she recognizes that her cousin makes no preparations for courtship and marriage because of the seriousness of her physical handicap. After Kit witnesses Mercy's true feelings for John Holbrook, she realizes that the two are alike in temperament and outlook. Both possess an honesty, a selflessness, and a dedication to others that reflect their inner goodness. To prove his devotion, John is willing to forego the husking bee and remain with Mercy, who has no interest in the community social. When John returns from captivity and goes immediately and without a word to Mercy, Kit is not surprised.)

8. How do the betrothals of Judith and Mercy affect Kit?

(Kit suffers a sense of exclusion as her cousins make permanent decisions about their future. Although she is glad William no longer pursues her and is happy that the two girls have found suitable mates, she forces herself to ponder her own future. Despite the fact that Sir Francis Tyler would no longer be there to protect his granddaughter from difficulties, she naturally considers a return to Barbados, where she enjoy mild winters and could work as a governess. To broaden her education, she would seek a library and continue the habit of reading that her grandfather instilled in her in childhood. Kit seems unaware of her own stirrings for Nat until he returns to the dock with his new ketch. Their meeting answers unframed questions about whether they are suited to each other.)

Questions 9 and 10 (Critical Level)

9. How does Speare soften the harshness in Matthew Wood?

THE WITCH OF BLACKBIRD POND

(Matthew Wood is chary of admiration or praise when Kit first joins his family. She shocks him with her seven trunks of silks and lace and her former lifestyle at a plantation owning a hundred African laborers and a personal slave. He condemns her for vanity and forces her to attend Sunday services. When the onion field needs weeding, he dispatches Kit along with Judith to perform grueling hand work.

Later, Matthew comes to admire her spunk, devotion, and sacrifice during the family's illness. When Kit states that she has been "nothing but a trouble to you from the beginning," Matthew admits he did not welcome her at first. However, he reveals his honor by amending his initial opinion, "But this week you have proved me wrong. You haven't spared yourself, Katherine. Our own daughter couldn't have done more." When Kit faces charges of witchcraft, he roars to accusers, "Begone from my house! . . . How dare you speak the name of a good, God-fearing girl? Any man who slanders one of my family has me to reckon with!"

10. What does Kit's choice of Nat indicate about her character?

(Both Kit and Nat possess a fierce independence, worldly experience, and more humor than Puritans can tolerate. Likewise, they share other positive traits, such as compassion for Hannah and Prudence and ambition beyond the offerings of a colonial river town. Kit's acceptance of Nat indicates her acknowledgement of those qualities in her own personality, with which she has been at war since her arrival in New England. In addition, Kit's rejection of John Holbrook's weaknesses and William Ashby's materialism suggests that she admires a man who relies on himself. Although both Kit and Nat give ample evidence of fiery temper, the outlook for their happiness is positive.)

Questions 11 and 12 (Creative Level)

11. Compose the first act of an outdoor drama describing life in Puritan Connecticut or the arrival of Governor Andros and the Red Coats for a discussion of the charter.
12. List separately the pros and cons of living in Wethersfield or Barbados during the seventeenth century.

ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Art

- Using desk-top publishing or other artistic media, make a schematic drawing of stocks or a spinning wheel, instructions on candle-dipping and flax spinning, recipes for cornbread or mush, road signs pointing to Hartford or Saybrook harbor, posters stating the penalty for abstaining from the Meeting House or disturbing the peace, flash cards for teaching the alphabet to children or lining a hymn, drawings of a dress and accessories suited to Barbados or New England, a placard or banner welcoming Governor Andros or the *Dolphin*, leaflets describing the capture of John Holbrook and other members of the militia, and an announcement about local husking bees, or John's safe return from the Indians.
- Lead a panel discussion of the beauties of New England. Contrast the coming of Fall to the tropical splendors of the West Indies.

Economics

- Explain why Hannah depends on Nat for supplies and

why she spins thread to earn money for fines and taxes.

- Describe how Kit's grandfather is cheated by his overseer of the proceeds of a winter harvest.
- List the types of goods that colonists buy or trade when ships dock at Saybrook harbor or in Charlestown.

Education

Brainstorm ways of educating Prudence and other children with primers and hornbooks. Include lessons in geography, science, mathematics, history, health, language, and literature.

Geography

- Create a mural or web site that contrasts Barbados and Antigua with Wethersfield, Connecticut. Note the difference in climate near the equator and the absence of seasonal change in the tropics.
- Compose a paragraph describing natural resources of Connecticut, particularly maple trees, shellfish, and wildflowers.
- Locate on a map the major tribes of New England before the coming of European colonists. Show how many survived into the eighteenth century.

History and Social Studies

- Characterize the qualities of survivors in colonial New England. Note the importance of persistence and determination, the characteristics that keep Hannah alive and endear her to Nat and Kit.
- Using time line, webbing, flow chart, mural, or a web site, show evidence of Puritanism in current American society.
- Write a brief address explaining the need for well-rounded education in early childhood. Cite the types of lessons Kit should teach Prudence and the other dame school students to prepare them for survival in the colonies.
- Launch an internet web site inviting readers to explain the kind of laws a repressive theocracy would have. List the ways that a theocracy would inhibit students from full development.
- Compose an annotated time line of the colonial period. Annotate examples of religious persecution, imprisonment, execution, and exile.
- Compile figures on population growth in New England in the 1600s. Conclude how much growth derives from births and how much from immigration.

Language Arts

- Compose individual posters explaining these terms: cross-staff, latitude, hawser, beam ends, treason, heretic, husking bee, dragoons, cavalier, musket, All Saints' Day, papist, All Hallows' Eve, dowry, sandpiper, frippery, Puritan, and Roundhead.
- Characterize in separate paragraphs the difference between growing up under a kindly grandfather in Barbados and living with Puritan relatives in the colonies.
- Outline an oral biography of poet Anne Bradstreet, Quaker leader William Penn, or midwife and religious leader Anne Hutchinson.
- Read aloud from nonfiction, novels, plays, and stories about repression and authoritarianism, such as Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* and Lois Lowry's *The Giver*.
- Using examples from *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*,

THE WITCH OF BLACKBIRD POND

define religious tyranny. Enumerate the personal freedoms guaranteed in the Constitution a century later.

6. Draw a character web representing the interconnectedness between parents and children, girls and suitors, teachers and learners, sailors and captain, authorities and parishioners, prisoners and keepers, and rescuers and escapees.

Psychology

1. Make contrasting chalkboard definitions of intimidation, coercion, slander, and prejudice. Explain how the terms define events that make Kit's first year in the colonies fearful and lonely.
2. Determine what factors force Hannah from her cottage. Express Nat's concern that Hannah is too old to undergo more persecution from Puritans.
3. Compose a short speech in which you describe Mercy's accommodation of a twisted spine and delicate health. Explain why she looks for ways to be helpful and cheery.
4. Comment in an essay on colonial denigration of women. For examples, explain why Puritans discourage women from swimming, learning, going to plays, wearing bright clothing, or declining to attend Sunday services.

Science and Health

1. Compose a lecture on outdated ideas of witches' familiars, particularly cats, owls, bats, and frogs.
2. List the dangers of vengeance, slander, and false imprisonment. Explain why the authorities place Nat and fellow crewmen in stocks and incarcerate Kit.
3. Demonstrate how colonial spinners turned flax into quality thread and how carders refined raw wool.
4. Use simple diagrams to explain how a captain directs a sailboat up a narrow river channel.
5. Discuss how onion poultices to the chest relieve congestion and lower fever.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. Write a letter from Kit to Hannah telling her how much she has missed Hannah's friendship and what events have brought uncertainty and unhappiness to her life.
2. Describe Kit's early life while her grandfather was alive and prospering in Barbados. Emphasize activities a young girl might enjoy in Barbados, especially dancing, singing, reading, watching plays, and swimming. Include details of Kit's personal slave, room, and wardrobe.
3. Draw contrasting Sunday outfits for Kit, Judith, Mercy, and Rachel. Add hats, shoes, ornaments, and cloaks to their basic garments.
4. Report on the history of Puritanism in America. Name dominant figures during the Salem witch hunts, especially Judge Hathorne, Giles Corey, and Rebecca Nurse. Include dates of trials and executions.
5. Describe Nat's day of public punishment. Improvise conversations with passing citizens who mock him and throw muck and vegetables at him. Tell how he feels when he is banished from town.
6. Draw a map of the eastern coastline of the United States from New England to the Caribbean. Consult an atlas to find out in what direction and how many miles Kit sails on the *Dolphin* from Barbados to Connecticut.
7. Listen to calypso or reggae music from the Caribbean

isles. Compare it to jazz, rock, soul, gospel, classical, folk, country, hip-hop, rap, and western. Describe standard instruments for island performances, particularly bongos, maracas, and steel drums.

8. Outline the history of slavery in the Western Hemisphere. Explain how the Golden Triangle involved sugar planters and rum makers in the trade of African captives.
9. Sketch the *Dolphin* and *Witch*. Label decks, sails, masts, cargo holds, galley, cabins, and railings. Contrast each ship to a brigantine.
10. Write news stories for a seventeenth-century New England newspaper. Report on Kit's arrival, Halloween events, Hannah's disappearance, the regular schedule of the *Dolphin*, Kit's night in jail, Governor Andros's arrival, the disappearance of the charter, the fire, Kit's arrest and trial, and local engagements and social events.

ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT

1. Recount the major events of the novel from the perspective of Mercy or Goodwife Cruff.
2. Project the kinds of adjustments Kit must make to living aboard the *Witch*.
3. Outline the life of a colonial doctor, constable, or sea trader.
4. Summarize evidence that the Woods need a son.
5. Discuss the symbolism of Blackbird Pond, swimming, blueberry muffins, the meadow, All Hallow's Eve, *The Tempest*, and the *Witch*.

SPEARE'S OTHER WORKS

Calico Captive (1957)
Abby, Julia and the Cows (1958)
Child Life in New England, 1790-1840 (1961)
The Bronze Bow (1962)
Life in Colonial America (1963)
The Prospering (1967)
Ice Glen (1967)
The Sign of the Beaver (1983)

RELATED READING

Avi, *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*
Charlotte Bronte, *Jane Eyre*
Lois McMaster Bujold, *Barrabar and Shards of Honor*
Karen Cushman, *Catherine, Called Birdy* and *The Midwife's Apprentice*
Howard Fast, *April Morning*
Esther Forbes, *Johnny Tremain*
Paula Fox, *Slave Dancer*
Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter*
Robert Heinlein, *Citizen of the Galaxy*, *Podkayne of Mars*, and *Starman Jones*
E. L. Konigsburg, *A Proud Taste for Scarlet and Miniver*
Arthur Miller, *The Crucible*
Ann Petry, *Tituba*
Mary Stewart, *The Crystal Cave*, *The Hollow Hills*, and *The Prince and the Pilgrim*
Mary Stolz, *Pangur Ban*
Rosemary Sutcliff, *Knight's Fee* and *The Witch's Brat*
Frances Temple, *Ramsey Scallop*
Mark Twain, *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* and *The Prince and the Pauper*

THE WITCH OF BLACKBIRD POND

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Apseloff, Marilyn Fain. *Elizabeth George Speare*. New York: Twayne, 1991.
- Ammon, B. D. *Handbook for the Newbery Medal and Honor Books, 1980-1989*. Hagerstown, Md.: Alleyside Press, 1991.
- Beetz, K. H. *Beacham's Guide to Literature for Young Adults, Vol. 3*. Washington, D. C: Beacham Publishing, 1990.
- Children's Literature Review*. Vol. 8. Detroit: Gale, 1985.
- Contemporary Authors*. Vols. 1-4. Detroit: Gale, 1967.
- Contemporary Authors on CD*. Detroit: Gale, 1993.
- Current Biography*. New York: H. W. Wilson, 1960.
- DISCovering Authors on CD*. Detroit: Gale, 1994.
- "The Doucette Index to K-12 Teaching Ideas for Literature," <http://www.educ.ucalgary.ca/litindex>.
- "Elizabeth George Speare," *Biography Today*, September 1995, p. 102.
- Hurst, C. O. *Long Ago and Far Away: An Encyclopedia for Successfully Using Literature with Intermediate Readers*. Allen, Tex.: DLM, 1991.
- Junior DISCovering Authors on CD*. Detroit: Gale Research, 1994.
- Kruise, C. S. *Those Bloomin' Books: A Handbook for Extending Thinking Skills*. Englewood, Colo.: Libraries Unlimited, 1984.
- Liebman, Larry, "Witch of Blackbird Pond," *Puget Sound Business Journal*, March 8, 1996, p. 29.
- Moseley, Ann, "Signs in Speare's 'The Sign of the Beaver,'" *ALAN Review*, Spring 1995, pp. 19-21.
- Something About the Author*. Vol. 62. Detroit: Gale Research, 1990.
- Speare, Elizabeth George, "Laura Ingalls Wilder Award Acceptance," *Horn Book*, July/August 1989.
- , "The Survival Story," *Horn Book*, March-April 1988, pp. 163-172.
- , "Report of a Journey: Newbery Award Acceptance," *Horn Book*, August 1962.
- Sullivan, Emilie P., "Three Good Juvenile Books with Literacy Models," *Journal of Reading*, September 1994, p. 55.
- Thuente, Mary Helen, "Beyond Historical Fiction: Speare's 'The Witch of Blackbird Pond,'" *English Journal*, October 1985, pp. 50-55.
- Tighe, Mary Ann, and Charles Avinger, "Teaching Tomorrow's Classics," *ALAN-Review*, Spring 1994, pp. 9-13.
- Twentieth-Century Children's Writers*. New York: St. James, 1989.

TEACHER' NOTES

THE WITCH OF BLACKBIRD POND

VOCABULARY TEST

A. Complete the paragraph below with terms from the list that follows. You will have answers left over when you finish.

bolt	dragoons	musket	riven
confidence	escort	procession	Sabbath
council	haughty	provocatively	snubbed
cross-staff	hurled	reception	somber
discipline	insubordination	resignation	straggled
Doomsday	latitude	respectful	venture

Governor Andros had no cause to complain of his (1) _____ at Wethersfield. The people kept a (2) _____ silence. The Hartford (3) _____ saluted and showed a praiseworthy (4) _____. As the band rode out of sight along the road a few fists were shaken, and some small boys (5) _____ clumps of mud after the last horses' hoofs. For the most part it was a (6) _____ group that (7) _____ back to their neglected chores. The (8) _____ of Andros and his procession had shaken their (9) _____. They all knew that this (10) _____ man was on his way to meet with their (11) _____, and that before night fell he would hold their very lives in his hand.

(12) _____ and despair settled over the household that evening, as though, Kit thought, it were the eve of that (13) _____ that the minister warned of in (14) _____ meeting. There was no company to look forward to. . . . Kit was thankful when she and Judith could escape to the cold (15) _____ of the upstairs chamber.

B. Choose five of the unused words from Part A and use each correctly in a sentence.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

THE WITCH OF BLACKBIRD POND

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Matching (30 points)

Match the following quotations with the speaker. Place the letter of your answer in the blank provided at left.

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| A. Captain Eaton | F. John Holbrook | K. Nat Eaton |
| B. Eleazer Kimberley | G. Judith Wood | L. Prudence Cruff |
| C. Goodman Cruff | H. Kit Tyler | M. Rachel Wood |
| D. Goodwife Cruff | I. Matthew Wood | N. Gershom Bulkeley |
| E. Hannah Tupper | J. Mercy Wood | O. William Ashby |

- _____ 1. You can stop trying to be a lady of mercy.
- _____ 2. I don't seem to fit in.
- _____ 3. In another year I hope to be ready to take a church of my own.
- _____ 4. We do not welcome strangers in this town, and you be the kind we like least.
- _____ 5. Don't you want to marry me?
- _____ 6. I'm sick and tired of hearing about Prudence being bewitched.
- _____ 7. I hold myself to blame for my laxness.
- _____ 8. You gave me to understand that they had sent for you to come.
- _____ 9. I declare, you look so like her it takes my breath away.
- _____ 10. How grateful you must be, young lady, for the kindness of your aunt and uncle in your time of need.
- _____ 11. As a matter of fact, Kit can have William with my blessing.
- _____ 12. We come to inspect your school, Mistress Wood, and we find bedlam.
- _____ 13. Thee did well, child, to come to the Meadow.
- _____ 14. I got well, except for this leg, but he died.
- _____ 15. He told me to say goodbye to you if he had to hurry away.

Part II: Completion (20 points)

Fill in answers that complete each statement. Place your responses in the blanks.

1. Kit finds _____ that Prudence leaves on her doorstep.
2. Prudence proves she is literate by reading from _____.
3. Judith claims that _____ wears herself out helping people like Widow Brown.
4. Kit jumps into the water to retrieve Prudence's _____.
5. Nat names his new ketch the _____.
6. Kit notices an odd-shaped _____ on Hannah's forehead.
7. Hannah tells Kit, "The answer is in thy _____."
8. Kit and Judith attend Thankful Peabody's _____.
9. Authorities charge Kit with causing illness and death to fall upon _____.
10. _____ yells at Kit for wearing a flowered silk dress and stylish bonnet to Meeting.

THE WITCH OF BLACKBIRD POND

Part III: True/False (20 points)

Mark each statement either T for true or F if any part is false. Rewrite false statements to make them true.

- _____ 1. Hannah brings Kit food and a comb before the trial.

- _____ 2. Nat risks imprisonment by testifying that Prudence learned to read at Hannah's house.

- _____ 3. Indians attack the militia and hold John Holbrook captive.

- _____ 4. Kit believes that Judith has a right to know that John loves Mercy.

- _____ 5. Nat plans to take Hannah to Saybrook to visit his grandmother.

- _____ 6. Kit wants to return to Barbados to marry Nat.

- _____ 7. The constable catches three ringleaders who put lanterns in William Ashby's windows.

- _____ 8. Kit's grandfather taught her how to swim when she was small.

- _____ 9. Judith, Mercy, and Kit come down with a mysterious fever.

- _____ 10. Prudence's father believes she is too stupid to attend school.

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. Summarize the hardships that Thomas and Hannah endured.
2. Outline the events of Kit's first days in New England.
3. Explain why Hannah does not return to Wethersfield.
4. Analyze the way in which Puritans welcome outsiders.
5. Discuss Kit's island ways and attitudes.

THE WITCH OF BLACKBIRD POND

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Multiple Choice (20 points)

Choose the answer that completes each statement below. Place the letter of your response in the blank at left.

- _____ 1. Kit enjoyed learning to read from
A. books of Shakespeare's plays. B. *Pilgrim's Progress*.
C. Anne Bradstreet's poems. D. the Bible.
- _____ 2. Hannah understands that Kit
A. would make a good teacher. B. loves Nat.
C. should return to Barbados. D. would be happier among Quakers.
- _____ 3. Kit selects two dresses from her trunk
A. to give to Mercy and Judith. B. to replace clothes she ruined while swimming after the doll.
C. to wear to spring socials. D. that would fit Prudence.
- _____ 4. When a gaunt, ragged man knocks on the door,
A. Rachel offers him cornbread B. he charges Kit with witchcraft.
C. he falls on his knees before Mercy. D. Kit runs to save Hannah.
- _____ 5. Judith considers Nat
A. a possible suitor. B. a common riverman.
C. a Roundhead. D. a friend of a Quaker witch.
- _____ 6. Governor Andros represents
A. Puritans. B. King Charles.
C. the colonists of Massachusetts. D. King James.
- _____ 7. On the breakfast table, Kit is surprised to find
A. blueberry muffins. B. goat's milk.
C. onions. D. water.
- _____ 8. When Rachel first sees Kit, she calls her
A. a traitor. B. a witch.
C. a royalist. D. Margaret.
- _____ 9. At first, Kit refuses to attend
A. a second Sunday service. B. a mob scene at Hannah's cottage.
C. All Saints' Day festivities. D. Nat's punishment at the pillory.
- _____ 10. Rachel visits Kit
A. at Hannah Tupper's house. B. aboard the *Dolphin*.
C. at the constable's shed. D. on Nat's ketch.

Part II: Completion (20 points)

Complete each of the following statements with a term from the story.

1. Obviously, _____ influences John in forming important opinion.
2. _____ scolds Kit for concealing the fact that Matthew and Rachel Wood do not know she is traveling to their house.
3. A _____ flees the bullets of the mob.
4. From Africa, _____ brings Hannah a bulb like an onion.
5. Kit goes to _____ to cry when she feels frustrated.
6. To vary lessons, _____ leads children in acting out Bible scenes.
7. _____ reminds Kit that proper reading should "improve our sinful nature."
8. Prudence waits for _____ under a big willow tree.
9. The Wood family lives in a colony on the _____ River.
10. _____'s parents drowned on a pleasure trip to Antigua.

THE WITCH OF BLACKBIRD POND

Part III: Matching (30 points)

Match parts of quotations. Place the letter of your response in the blank provided at left.

- _____ 1. You will mock the Lord's assembly
_____ 2. But instead she fell in love with a Puritan and
_____ 3. She says no respectable woman
_____ 4. Hannah's magic cure for every ill
_____ 5. I am sorry to tell you, Katherine, that your friend William Ashby
_____ 6. I take it then, Goodman Cruff, that you
_____ 7. With John to help with the planting and Mercy still sharing the work of the household,
_____ 8. You can't arrest him,
_____ 9. Nat is New England, too, she thought,
_____ 10. Firstly that you were the familiar friend and companion of the Widow Hannah Tupper of Blackbird Pond,
_____ 11. Kit often wished that
_____ 12. You don't understand how sometimes
_____ 13. John had never asked formal permission to call;
_____ 14. He didn't want the money back—
_____ 15. You see, there was a boy,
- A. could keep afloat in the water like that.
B. ran away to America.
C. he wanted me to marry him.
D. with such frippery.
E. their first child, two years older than I.
F. evil can seem innocent and harmless.
G. he had merely taken literally Rachel's invitation to come again.
H. blueberry cake and a kitten.
I. John would read something besides the religious tracts he so admired.
J. seems to have been the only one singled out for their insulting prank.
K. an alleged witch who has within the past week disappeared in a suspicious manner.
L. withdraw your charges against this young woman?
M. when he only came back to help me.
N. there was no obligation now to hold Kit to the tasks she hated.
O. like John Holbrook and Uncle Matthew.

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. Discuss why Kit, Nat, and Hannah are unsuited to Puritan society.
2. Account for fears that John is dead.
3. Describe the activities at the dock.
4. Characterize the attack on Hannah.
5. Summarize Wethersfield's activities by season.

THE WITCH OF BLACKBIRD POND

ANSWER KEY

VOCABULARY TEST

- A.**
- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. reception | 9. procession |
| 2. respectful | 10. haughty |
| 3. escort | 11. council |
| 4. discipline | 12. resignation |
| 5. hurled | 13. Doomsday |
| 6. somber | 14. Sabbath |
| 7. straggled | 15. sanctuary |
| 8. confidence | |

B. Answers will vary.

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Matching (30 points)

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. K | 6. C | 11. G |
| 2. H | 7. I | 12. B |
| 3. F | 8. A | 13. E |
| 4. D | 9. M | 14. J |
| 5. O | 10. B | 15. L |

Part II: Completion (20 points)

- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| 1. flowers | 6. scar |
| 2. the Bible | 7. heart |
| 3. Rachel | 8. wedding |
| 4. doll | 9. children |
| 5. Witch | 10. Matthew Wood |

Part III: True/False (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. F | 6. F |
| 2. F | 7. T |
| 3. T | 8. T |
| 4. F | 9. T |
| 5. T | 10. F |

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Multiple Choice (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. A | 6. D |
| 2. B | 7. D |
| 3. A | 8. C |
| 4. C | 9. A |
| 5. B | 10. C |

Part II: Completion (30 points)

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. Dr. Bulkeley | 6. Kit |
| 2. Captain Eaton | 7. John |
| 3. cat | 8. Prudence |
| 4. Nat | 9. Connecticut |
| 5. the meadow | 10. Kit |

Part III: Matching (30 points)

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. D | 6. L | 11. I |
| 2. B | 7. N | 12. F |
| 3. A | 8. M | 13. G |
| 4. H | 9. O | 14. C |
| 5. J | 10. K | 15. E |

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.

PERMA-BOUND[®]

THE STRONGEST BOOKS YOU CAN BUY

PERMA-BOUND BOOKS • 617 East Vandalia Road • Jacksonville, Illinois 62650

Toll Free 1-800-637-6581 • Fax 1-800-551-1169

E-mail: books@perma-bound.com

PERMA-BOUND CANADA • Box 517, Station A • Willowdale, Ontario M2N 5T1

Toll Free 1-800-461-1999 • Fax 1-888-250-3811

E-mail: perma-bound.ca@sympatico.ca

VISIT OUR WEB SITE: <http://www.perma-bound.com>