

The Witch of Blackbird Pond

Please use these questions to help guide you for your exam in the fall



Elizabeth George Speare

Ms. Stafford Incoming Grade 6

CHARACTERS

DESCRIPTION

Goodwife Cruff



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John Holbrook



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Matthew Wood



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*Reverend Gershom
Bulkeley*



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Prudence Cruff



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CHARACTERS

DESCRIPTION

Rachel Wood



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Judith Wood



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Mercy Wood



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William Ashby



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Hannah Tupper



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CHARACTERS

DESCRIPTION

Mr. Eleazer Kimberley



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Mr. John Woodbridge



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Sam Talcott



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The Constable



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Goodman Cruff



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Chapter 1 Questions

- 1) What were Kit's thoughts as she got her first glimpse of America?*
- 2) What made Kit beg to go ashore?*
- 3) When Kit reached land, why did she think people were staring at her curiously? What was the real reason they were staring at her?*
- 4) Do you notice any foreshadowing in this first chapter that might give us a glimpse at Nat and Kit's relationship in the future?*
- 5) Describe the incident that occurs on the trip back to the Dolphin.*
- 6) Why was Kit's jumping into the water suspicious in the minds of the others?*
- 7) Describe John Holbrook.*
- 8) We already see conflict between Kit and her new surroundings while she is talking to John Holbrook. What are his views on Barbados and King Charles?*
- 9) What is it that makes Kit uneasy about her conversations with Nat and John?*

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Chapter 2 Questions

- 1) Describe the irony in the author saying, "As though the ship was bewitched, from the moment they left Saybrook everything went wrong."*
- 2) Describe Kit's attitude as the ship inched along the river.*
- 3) Describe Prudence.*
- 4) We learn more about John Holbrook in this chapter. Tell a little about his background.*
- 5) Why did talk about money embarrass Kit?*
- 6) We learn more about Kit's years on Barbados in this chapter. Describe her years growing up.*
- 7) Describe "walking up the river".*
- 8) What did Kit say to anger Nat?*
- 9) What does Kit say to John that completely shocks him?*
- 10) Why does Kit have no one waiting for her when they reach Wethersfield?*

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Chapter 3 Questions

- 1) Who did Rachel mistakenly take Kit for?*
- 2) What were Nat's last words before he left Kit at the Woods House? What was he referring to?*
- 3) While Rachel and Kit are talking of home in Barbados, what question crosses Kit's mind? Do you think this question will be answered before the end of the book?*
- 4) What is the response of the Woods family when they learn that Kit is not here for a visit, but to stay?*
- 5) Why did Kit have to leave Barbados quickly?*
- 6) Matthew is unimpressed when he learns Kit had to sell her negro girl. Why do you think this is?*
- 7) Matthew is also unimpressed when he learns that Kit's grandfather's was a King's man. Why?*
- 8) We see many differences in this chapter from Kit's way of life in Barbados to the Puritan way of life of the Woods Family. Describe some of these differences. Do you think the Woods Family and Kit will be able to overcome their differences?*

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Chapter 4 Questions

- 1) What do the three girls do when Rachel leaves the house for a bit?*
- 2) Why do you think Rachel was so easily persuaded to try on some of Kit's things?*
- 3) Why do you think Uncle Matthew was so angered by the girls trying on Kit's things? And why did he allow Mercy to keep the shawl?*
- 4) What does Kit confide to Mercy? Why do you think she chose Mercy to tell her secrets to?*
- 5) Describe the work load the Woods did in a single day. How does this compare with the work (if any) Kit did in Barbados?*
- 6) What does Kit overhear as she is standing on the stairs?*

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Chapter 5 Questions

- 1) What arguments erupted before the family went to Meeting?*
- 2) What was Kit's reaction to the town?*
- 3) Share some similarities and differences between a Puritan service in the late 1600s to a Religious service held today.*
- 4) What kind of first impression do you think Kit made to the townspeople when she went to Meeting?*
- 5) What did Kit notice about Mistress Ashby?*
- 6) Who has Judith "set her cap" for?*
- 7) What does Kit learn about the lean-tos and their purpose?*

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Chapter 6 Questions

- 1) Why was Reverend Bulkeley so interested in Kit?*
- 2) What does Reverend Bulkeley do to anger Matthew?*
- 3) What about the Bible reading did Matthew not approve of?*
- 4) Why was Kit angered when Dr. Bulkeley referred to Mercy as weak and afflicted?*
- 5) What did William Ashby ask permission to do and what is the family's response to this request?*
- 6) What does it mean to be a Royalist?*
- 7) What did the sisters think William Ashby was going to do before Kit came into town?*
- 8) Who does Judith declare that she is going to marry?*

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Chapter 7 Questions

- 1) Describe the scene when William comes to call on Kit.*
- 2) What honorable role has William recently been appointed to?
What do you think this role entails?*
- 3) How did William surprise Kit?*
- 4) Describe both sides of Matthew and William's argument.*
- 5) After William leaves, what does Kit learn about William's intentions?*
- 6) In order to get through the evenings with William, Kit decides to ask Mercy to help her with what? Do you think this will help the situation?*
- 7) Describe the thoughts Kit is having about William and her daily workload.*

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Chapter 8 Questions

- 1) *How is Kit different setting out to the onion fields compared to her first outing to the Meeting House?*
- 2) *Why were Judith and Kit so cheerful?*
- 3) *Describe the Great Meadow.*
- 4) *"How often she would come back she had no way of foreseeing, nor could she know that never, in the months to come, would the Meadows break the promise they held for her at this moment, a promise of peace and quietness and of comfort to a troubled heart." This quote from the book is a foreshadowing of what is to come. What do you predict might happen to Kit in the next chapters?*
- 5) *Who is the Widow Tupper and where does she live? What are some of the rumors surrounding the Widow Tupper?*
- 6) *What amazed Kit about Judith?*
- 7) *While pulling weeds, Kit debates marrying William. What are her pros for marrying William?*
- 8) *What great news does Mercy have for Kit when she returns?*

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Chapter 9 Questions

- 1) Kit is envious of what trait of Mercy's while they are teaching school?*
- 2) How does Kit's years with her grandfather affect her teaching style?*
- 3) What indulgence did Mercy worry about at school?*
- 4) Describe the play and the major problems that arise.*
- 5) Besides the brawl, what astonished Mr. Eleazer Kimberley and Reverend John Woodbridge?*
- 6) Kit's teaching styles are a great source of astonishment and contempt. Compare Kit's style of teaching to your teachers' styles of teaching. Compare Mercy's style of teaching to your teachers' styles of teaching.*
- 7) Kit finds herself in the Meadow and meets Hannah Tupper. Describe Hannah and her cabin.*
- 8) What is it about Hannah that makes Kit tell her things she has not told anyone?*
- 9) After leaving Hannah's house, Kit has the courage to do what?*

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Chapter 10 Questions

- 1) Kit tells Mercy that she was able to go visit Mr. Kimberley because she was "bewitched". What is Mercy's reaction?*
- 2) What are Rachel and Mercy's conception of Quakers?*
- 3) Kit feels that William still feels like a stranger even after all this time. Do you think they make good candidates for marriage?*
- 4) What does the family believe John's intentions for visiting frequently are?*
- 5) Why is Kit a little disappointed in John?*
- 6) Who is Hannah's seafaring friend?*
- 7) While visiting Hannah, Nat and Kit find that they have a few things in common. What are these things?*
- 8) Why does Kit find Nat to be a contradictory person?*

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Chapter 17 Questions

- 1) How does Mercy deal with her "affliction"?*
- 2) Why does Kit wonder if it is worth the children learning how to read?*
- 3) Why is Prudence so sure she can't learn to read?*
- 4) How is Kit teaching Prudence to read?*
- 5) What is "Hannah's magic cure for every ill"?*
- 6) Why does Kit have misgivings after introducing Prudence to Hannah?*
- 7) What secret of Mercy's does Kit figure out and how?*

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Chapter 12 Questions

- 1) When the end of August was approaching and Fall was drawing near, many new tasks awaited the family. What needed to be done to prepare them for winter?*
- 2) Describe the process of making candles.*
- 3) On Kit's afternoon off, she finds herself helping Nat. What tasks do Nat and Kit complete together? Do you think this brings them closer together?*
- 4) What does Nat reveal to Kit about what he was thinking about the day he dropped her off at the Woods House?*
- 5) Nat takes the time to explain to Kit the disagreements against England and the King. Explain this.*
- 6) What do we learn about Thomas Tupper from Nat?*
- 7) When it is time for Kit to go, Nat decides to walk her home. How does this put Kit into a predicament?*

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Chapter 13 Questions

- 1) What is a husking bee?*
- 2) Why is Judith so excited for the husking bee and how is this upsetting to Kit?*
- 3) Again Kit is reminded of William's intentions of asking her to marry him. What is the argument she keeps having with herself about his proposal?*
- 4) Judith meets up with John on her way home and he reveals to her a secret. What is it?*
- 5) What warning does John give Kit about the Quakers?*
- 6) Do you think Kit should have warned John about Judith?*
- 7) Describe the scene when John comes to the Woods House.*
- 8) How does Kit get around William asking her to marry him?*
- 9) What does a red ear mean at a husking bee?*

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Chapter 14 Questions

- 1) What miracle of nature presents itself to Kit?*
- 2) What does Kit secretly see her uncle do and how does this change her perspective of him?*
- 3) When Kit learns there is a ship at the dock she is very confused at her feelings. Why do you think this is?*
- 4) What is it that makes Nat so angry at Kit? Why do you think Nat becomes so angry at something that seems so little?*
- 5) What distraction awaits Kit back at the house?*
- 6) Who is Sir Edmond Andros and what has he sent word about?*
- 7) What happened to the Dolphin to make it sit at the dock?*

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Chapter 15 Questions

- 1) What does Kit learn about "William's way of thinking"?*
- 2) What are some of the arguments the women can hear from the men in the next room?*
- 3) What was it that got many of the Wethersfield citizens curious enough to come out of their homes?*
- 4) Describe Governor Andros.*
- 5) Describe what happened at the meeting with the governor. Speculate where you think the charter went.*
- 6) Where does Kit joke with Judith that the charter went?*
- 7) Why is Kit proud of Uncle Matthew?*

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Chapter 16 Questions

- 1) What announcement does Matthew make to the family when he comes home at noontime?*
- 2) What disturbance happened on All Hallows Eve?*
- 3) Judith gives Kit a look that lets Kit know that they both have a very good idea who was responsible for the damage. Why does Kit not want to go see them in the stocks?*
- 4) When Kit finally goes to the town stocks, what does she witness? How does Nat react to her being there?*
- 5) What did the posted notice at the Meeting House read?*
- 6) Instead of going to Meeting, Kit finds herself where? When Prudence comes to Hannah's house, they start a new lesson. Describe how Kit continues to teach her.*
- 7) We see another piece of foreshadowing in the next few lines. "Kit would remember many times the picture she carried with her along the darkening road. Was there some premonition, she would wonder, that made the moment so poignant, some foreknowledge that this was the last afternoon the three would ever spend together in the small cottage?" What do you think might happen in the next few chapters?*

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Chapter 17 Questions

- 1) Why has alarm spread throughout Wethersfield?*
- 2) Describe the illness that lies in the Wood House.*
- 3) Matthew doesn't want Reverend Bulkeley in his home, but eventually he comes anyway to help with the illness. What does this prove to you?*
- 4) Why do visitors arrive at the Wood House during the illness?*
- 5) In detail, describe Kit's journey to save Hannah.*
- 6) Where is Hannah's temporary new home?*
- 7) Do you think Kit's decision to stay in Wethersfield was a good one? Why or why not?*

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Chapter 18 Questions

- 1) What does Kit thank Matthew for?*
- 2) Again there are visitors at the Wood House during illness. What did they want this time?*
- 3) The visitors tell a very outlandish story of their hunt for Hannah and how they are certain she is a witch. What are some of these outlandish accusations?*
- 4) Where is Kit taken to stay until presented to the court?*
- 5) Who is Goody Harrison and what happened to her?*
- 6) While imprisoned, who does Kit think might be able to come to her rescue?*
- 7) Who visits Kit while she is in the shed?*
- 8) What does Kit fear might happen to Prudence?*

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Chapter 19 Questions

- 1) What will happen if Kit is found guilty?*
- 2) What route did Kit take to get to the Town House?*
- 3) Who was seated at the head table at the Town House?*
- 4) What is the charge brought against Kit?*
- 5) What additional complaints do the townspeople declare upon Kit?*
- 6) What evidence was produced that could make Kit be found guilty of witchcraft?*
- 7) What two people come to Kit's rescue at the Town House and how?*
- 8) What is Goodman Cruff's reaction to Prudence's testimony?*

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Chapter 20 Questions

- 1) What significant event happens on the day of the first snowfall within the Woods House?*
- 2) What happens when William comes to call?*
- 3) What news does William bring of John's detachment?*
- 4) Describe Thankful Peabody's wedding.*
- 5) Who were the two unexpected visitors that dropped in on the wedding and what news did they bring?*
- 6) During the long winter months, Kit's mind often wandered between Hannah, the Dolphin and Nat. What did her thoughts contain?*
- 7) Describe the vivid dream Kit had and do you think it holds any meaning as to what is to come?*
- 8) Who unexpectedly arrives at the Wood House?*

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Chapter 21 Questions

- 1) What was announced in April during Lecture?*
- 2) Describe how things are coming together for John and Mercy.*
- 3) Describe how things are coming together for Judith and William.*
- 4) Describe Kit's secret plans.*
- 5) What did Kit realize as she sat in the Meadow on a nice Spring day?*
- 6) Hannah had spoken these words, "There is no escape if love is not there." How do these words help Kit to make another realization?*
- 7) What surprise does Nat have for Kit when he finally returns?*

