***The Witch of Blackbird Pond***

By Elizabeth George Speare

Directions: Look at the questions for each meeting. Pay attention to the number of questions you are being asked to answer! Answer all questions in your CLOSE READING NOTEBOOK! Label your questions with the meeting number and the date. These answers must be in full sentences and must be done thoughtfully to get credit for this work. (May Do: You can answer more questions than what is required for extra credit!)

**Meeting 1 (Chapter 1 – November 8th)**

Directions: Answer ALL FOUR questions in your close reading notebook.

1. When and where does the story take place?
2. Why was everyone so surprises that Kit could swim?
3. Compare Kit and Nat. How are they similar and different?
4. How do you think this chapter might set up the plot for the rest of the story?

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**Meeting 2 (Chapters 2, 3, and 4 – November 15th)**

Directions: Choose FIVE questions from those listed below to answer in your close reading notebook.

1. Describe Kit’s opinion of each member of the Cruff family.
2. What is John Holbrook like?
3. What had Kit’s life been like in Barbados? How do you think it will be different here?
4. Why wouldn’t the Eaton family transport slaves on their ship?
5. What is “walking up the river”?
6. Describe what happened when Kit arrived at Aunt Rachel’s house.
7. Why hadn’t Kit written a letter to ask if she could come? (Bonus: If Kit had email, do you think she would have written or not?)
8. How did Uncle Matthew react when he found out Kit had come to stay?
9. Compare the personalities of Judith and Mercy as seen in these chapters. How are they the same? How are they different?

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**Meeting 3 (Chapter 5 – November 16th)**

Directions: Choose FOUR questions from those listed below to answer in your close reading notebook.

1. How does the author show us what Judith feels about Kit?
2. What were the pillory, whipping post, and stocks used for?
3. Judith asked Kit, “Have you set your cap for him?” What do you think that means?
4. What were Sabbath houses? Why were they necessary?
5. Why is this sentence about the townspeople’s reaction to Kit so effective?

*“It was not so much a sound as a stillness so intent that it made her ears ring.”*

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**Meeting 4 (Chapters 6 and 7 – November 19th)**

Directions: Answer ALL FIVE questions in your close reading notebook.

1. What is Reverend Bulkeley like? Is his use of Scripture effective here?
2. How does Mercy show that she is a peacemaker throughout these chapters? Give as many examples as possible. What other character qualities are evident in Mercy’s life?
3. Why does Kit learn how to knit? What is her attitude toward her other chores?
4. Why are Reverend Bulkeley and Matthew Wood arguing over loyalty to the king and the Massachusetts Charter?
5. What are Kit’s opinion of John Holbrook and William Ashby?

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**Meeting 5 (Chapters 8, 9, and 10 – November 26th)**

Directions: Choose FIVE questions from those listed below to answer in your close reading notebook.

1. How does Kit respond to the Great Meadows? Does any place make you feel the same way?
2. Describe Hannah Tupper. What do you learn about her in these chapters?
3. What sad events have happened to the Wood family in the past? How have these events impacted the Wood family?
4. What happened Kit let the children act out the story of the Good Samaritan? What do you think about how Mr. Kimberley reacted?
5. What might the red flower at Hannah’s house symbolize? What does this teach Kit?
6. Many of the people of Wethersfield have a negative opinion of Hannah, who is actually good and kind. Does this make them “bad” people? Why or why not?
7. How were the Quakers different from the Puritans?

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**Meeting 6 (Chapters 11, 12, and 13 – November 29th)**

Directions: Choose FIVE questions from those listed below to answer in your close reading notebook.

1. What is Mercy’s attitude about not being able to do the things the others do?
2. What discovery does Kit make at the end of chapter 11? Why do you think it makes sense?
3. What chores needed to be done at harvest time? What does Kit think about this?
4. What do Kit and Nat do for Hannah?
5. Find the section where Kit and Nat are talking about birds. What do they mean? What does Nat say about King James?
6. What was a husking bee? How does it change Kit’s opinion of the people in Wethersfield? What is the significance of a red ear of corn?
7. What is John Holbrook’s opinion of Hannah Tupper? Why does he think this way?
8. How does John Holbrook treat Kit in their conversation?
9. Why does John come to visit the Wood home just before the husking bee? What happens?

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**Meeting 7 (Chapters 14 and 15 – November 30th)**

Directions: Choose FOUR questions from those listed below to answer in your close reading notebook.

1. How does Kit’s opinion change about her uncle when she sees him with a handful of dirt? Why?
2. Why was Kit so interested in seeing the Dolphin?
3. How does Nat react to the idea that Kit plans to marry William?
4. Judith knows something about William that Kit does not. Why?
5. How do the townspeople react to the arrival of Governor Andros? What does Kit feel about him?
6. What is Kit’s opinion of her Uncle Matthew at the end of these chapters?

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**Meeting 8 (Chapter 16 – December 3rd)**

Directions: Choose FOUR questions from those listed below to answer in your close reading notebook.

1. What happened on All Hallow’s Eve? Who did it, and why did they single out William as their target?
2. Describe the scene at the stocks. What happened?
3. Why is Kit jealous when she found out that Nat had often visited Hannah?
4. How has Prudence changed since the beginning of the book? Why is Kit worried about her?
5. Reread the following section and tell what it means: *“Bless thee, child!” said Hannah softly. “Perhaps ‘tis the answer. But remember, thee has never escaped at all if love is not there.”*
6. Why has John gone away? How does this allow a change in his opinions? Why does Judith react the way she does?

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**Meeting 9 (Chapters 17, 18, and 19 – December 6th)**

Directions: Choose FIVE questions from those listed below to answer in your close reading notebook.

1. What happens in the Wood household at the beginning of chapter 17? Who is impacted more – Kit and Judith? Why?
2. What reason do the angry townspeople give for the sickness? What do they propose to do?
3. What happens at Hannah’s house?
4. What “miracle” occurs in chapter 17?
5. Why does Kit decide to stay in Wethersfield?
6. What reason does Matthew Wood give for defending Kit in the previous chapter? What does Kit decide to do as a result?
7. What happens when Nat and Prudence show up at Kit’s trial? Why did Reverend Bulkeley choose those particular Buble verses for Prudence to read in the trial?
8. What are Kit’s feelings about all the happy times she and Prudence had at Hanna’s cottage?
9. How does Adam Cruff’s character change during chapter 19?

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**Meeting 10 (Chapters 20 and 21 – December 10th)**

Directions: Choose FIVE questions from those listed below to answer in your close reading notebook.

1. What do William and Kit learn about each other’s life priorities when they finally get to talk? What is the result of this conversation?
2. What does Kit decide to do near the end of chapter 20?
3. What happens when John returns?
4. How does Mercy’s grief about John affect her?
5. How has the relationship John Holbrook and Reverend Bulkeley changed?
6. What does Kit decide to do with her fancy clothes? Why is this important?
7. How does spring bring a new beginning for Kit?
8. How has the past year developed and proved Nat’s and Kit’s character so that they are more prepared for a lifetime together?