



**STUDENT PACKET**

**GRADES 6-8**

# **The Witch of Blackbird Pond**

Elizabeth George Speare

**READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT**

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### NOTE:

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

*The Witch of Blackbird Pond*  
**Study Questions**  
Use During and After Reading

On separate paper, write a brief answer to each numbered study question as you read the novel at home or in class. Use the questions for review before group discussions and before your final exam. The starred questions in italics are for thinking and discussion. The questions with two stars will help you think about what will happen next in the novel.

- \*\* Based on the title and cover picture, what do you think the story will be about? What can you tell about the girl on the cover from the expression on her face? What can you tell from her clothing?*

**Chapter 1:**

1. What is the setting (time and place) of the novel?
  2. What is Kit Tyler like?
  3. Where is Kit from and where is she going?
  4. Who is Nat and how does he seem to feel about Kit?
  5. How does Kit get wet and why does this make the others angry?
  6. Who is John Holbrook and why is he going to Wethersfield?
  7. Why does Goodwife Cruff say that Kit is a witch?
- \* Does Kit or Nat remind you of anyone you have met in another story? Is either one at all like you? (\* = personal "thought" question)
- \* Do you think Kit is wrong to jump in after the doll? She has no idea that her action will make people angry. Have you ever been in a situation like that?
- \*\* When John comments that Kit will probably be "a surprise to the good people of Wethersfield," Kit wonders if he has guessed "her secret." (page 12) What do you think her secret is? (\*\* = prediction)*

**Chapter 2:**

1. How long does it take the ship to get from Saybrook to Wethersfield? Why does it take so long?
2. What do you learn about Kit's childhood and family? How do you learn these details?
3. What does Kit know about her Aunt Rachel?
4. How does Kit insult Nat, without meaning to?
5. What is Kit's attitude toward slaves and how does that differ from Nat's attitude?
6. John is surprised that Kit can read. What does this tell you about many women of her time in Connecticut? How did she learn?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

infectious 66	implacable 70	veritable 70	dubiously 75	rankled 76
precarious 80	ingenious 80	enthralled 81	masque 81	raiment 81
obstreperous 82	sanctioned 82	bedlam 83	incredulously 83	loiterer 84
ravenous 86	tangibly 87	incoherent 89	rapierlike 90	conjured 91

**Directions:** Carefully study this sample "hierarchic chart." Then fill in the others with words from the list. Make two more charts of your own. Share them with your class.

