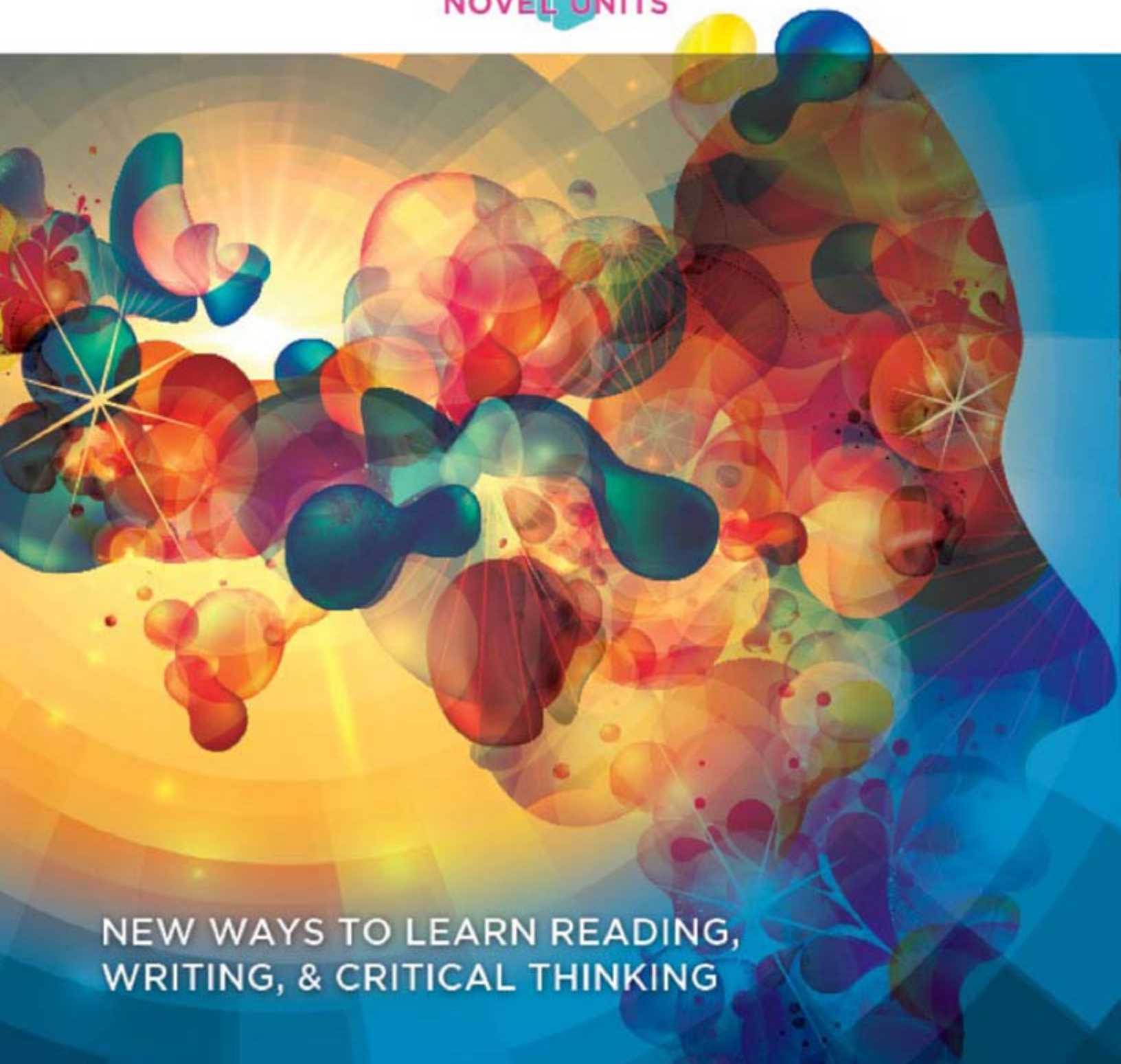


Student Packet

Grades 7–8

The Witch of Blackbird Pond

Elizabeth George Speare



**NEW WAYS TO LEARN READING,
WRITING, & CRITICAL THINKING**



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THE WITCH OF BLACKBIRD POND

by
Elizabeth George Speare

Student Packet

Written by
Gloria Levine, M.A.

Contains masters for:

- 1 Prereading Activity
 - 1 Study Guide (ten pages)
 - 7 Vocabulary Activities
 - 1 Literary Analysis Activity
 - 1 Writing Activity
 - 1 Geography Activity
 - 1 Historical Writing Activity
 - 1 Crossword Puzzle
 - 2 Comprehension Quizzes (Average and Advanced)
 - 2 Unit Exams (Average and Advanced)
- PLUS**
- Detailed Answer Key

Note

The text used to prepare this guide was the Laurel-Leaf softcover published by Dell, © 1958 by Elizabeth George Speare. The page references may differ in the hardcover or other paperback editions.

Please note: Please assess the appropriateness of this book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading and discussing it with your class.

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Name _____

5. Why isn't Hannah upset by the news that Nat has been banished from Wethersfield?
 6. What is Hannah's opinion of Kit's marrying William?
 7. How has Prudence changed?
 8. What present does Kit give Prudence?
 9. Where is John going? Why? How does Judith feel about his decision to leave?
- * Do you think Kit should risk giving Prudence gold?
 - * What do you think of Judith's angry reaction to John's leaving? Is she naturally upset? childish? understandably worried?
 - ** Kit has a premonition that this is the last afternoon that she, Prudence, and Hannah will share together in the cottage. What do you think is going to happen?

Chapter 17:

1. Which members of the Wood household get sick? What treatment do they get?
 2. Why does Matt change his mind about allowing Bulkeley into the house? What orders does Bulkeley give?
 3. Why do the townspeople come loudly knocking on Matt's door? How does he react?
 4. How does Kit and Hannah escape from the mob?
 5. What would have happened if Kit had taken Hannah home to Matt?
 6. What would have happened if Nat hadn't shown up? Where will Hannah go now?
 7. Why won't Hannah get into the boat? How does Nat solve that problem?
 8. Why doesn't Kit go with Nat on the ship? Would you?
- * If Kit had known that Mercy's fever would break that night, do you think Kit would have gotten on the ship?
 - * Are you surprised that Matt defends Kit as a "God-fearing girl" and "one of my family"?
 - ** How will William treat Kit now that she is being openly accused of witchcraft?

Chapter 18:

1. Of the townspeople who come for Kit, which one seems to "have it in" most for Kit?
2. What rumor has started about Hannah's cat?

Name _____

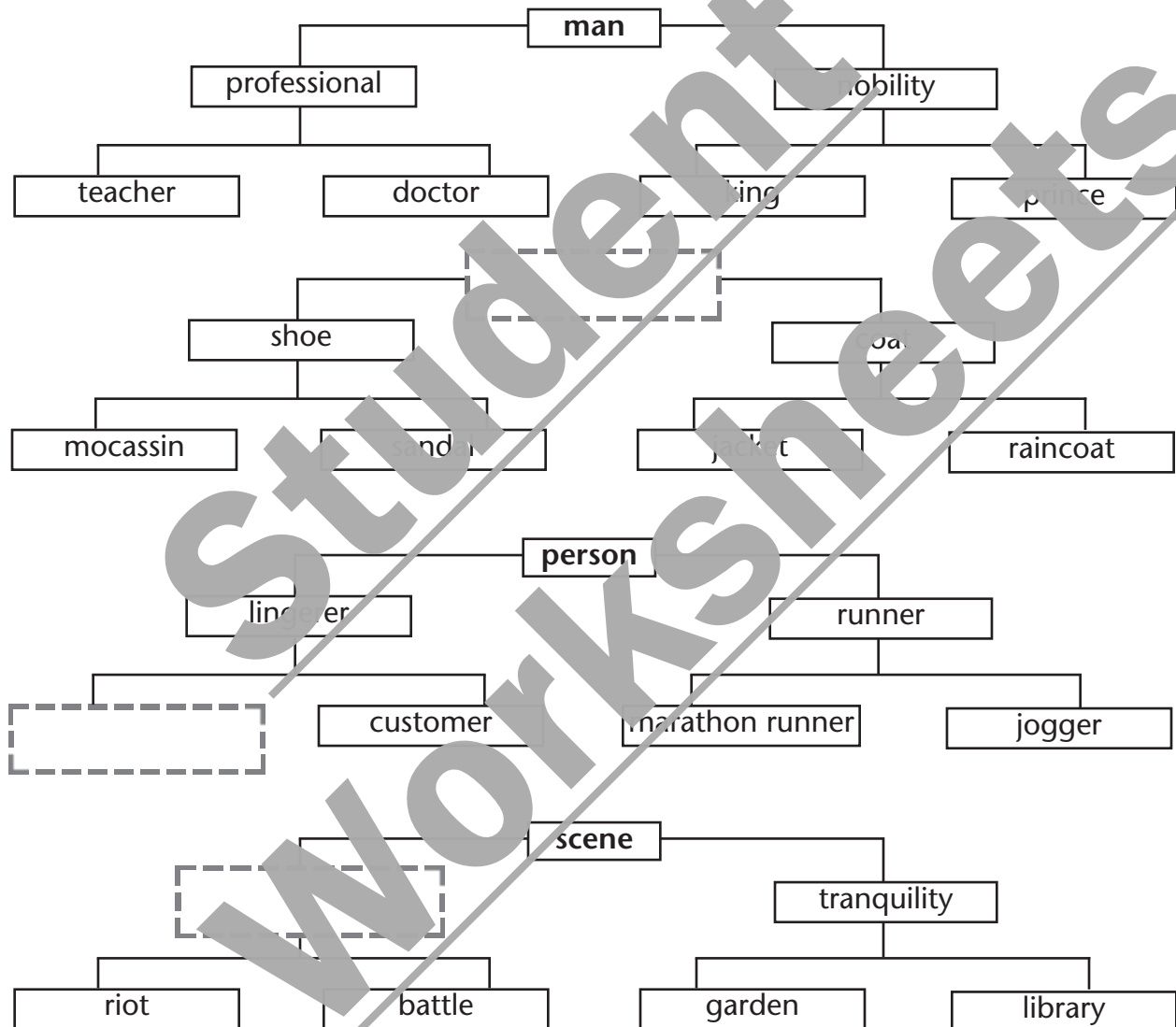
The Witch of Blackbird Pond

Activity #4: Vocabulary

Chapters 7-9

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

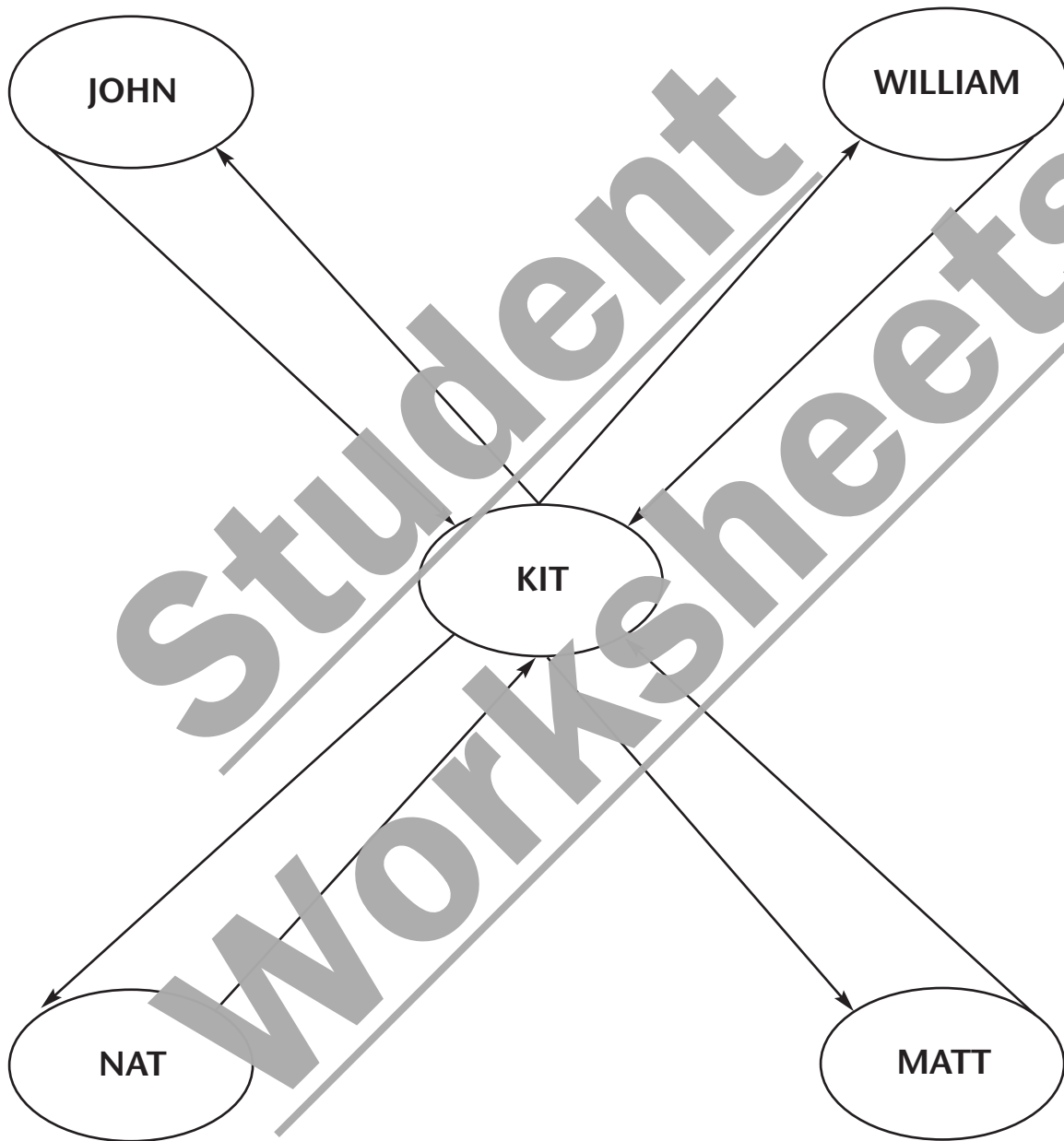
Directions: Carefully study this sample “hierarchic chart.” Then fill in the others with words from the list. Make two more charts of your own. Share them with your class.



Name _____

The Witch of Blackbird Pond
Activity #9: Literary Analysis: Character Relationships
Use After Reading

Directions: In a small group, talk about Kit's relationships with the following people: John, Nat, Matt, and William. Act out some short scenes from the story that show how Kit got along with each of the four characters.



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Name _____

The Witch of Blackbird Pond
Activity #12: **Historical Writing Project**
Use During or After Reading
Note: This project has two pages.

In *Speaking for Ourselves, Too* (ed. by Donald R. Gallo; NCTE, 1993), Elizabeth George Speare says:

"There is one piece of advice that is often given, especially to young writers, and that is that one should write about what one knows best. If you live in a small town in America, they say, do not try to write about London or Paris, or a desert or a mountain peak that you have never seen. But suppose, like me, that is exactly what you want to do? I have to admit that I have never been able to follow this wise advice. I wanted to write about the early days in colonial New England,And I found the answer. It is RESEARCH....There are men and women who have lived in London, Paris or in the desert and have climbed the highest mountain peaks, and they have written books to share their experiences with stay-at-homes like me. In a library, their many worlds are waiting to be entered..."

Pretend that you have decided to try your own hand at writing a piece of historical fiction about colonial New England, this one set in a small town during the 1600's.

1. Who would be your main character?
____ a young girl
____ a young boy
____ the oldest member of the community
____ the colony's main decision maker
____ a minister
____ a troublemaker
____ (your own idea)

NAME for your main character: _____

2. What are three problems your character might face?

a. _____
b. _____
c. _____

3. How would your character dress?

