

*Witch of Blackbird Pond* by Elizabeth George Speare

Discussion Questions:

1. Was there a character you admired?
2. Did any character display courage?
3. Would you please describe a character that is wise? Why do you think so?
4. Did you see a character change during the story? Or was there a character that, as you read more about him or her, your opinion changed?
5. Was the author trying to teach us or persuade us? If so, what and how?
6. How does Kit feel about leaving Barbados? Why?
7. When Kit swims to rescue Prudence's doll, they called her a witch. Why?
8. What kinds of things are important in the Wood home? Do they share these values with their Puritan community?
9. How are Judith and Mercy similar and different? Which would you find easier to make friends with?
10. Why does Kit allow William Ashby to court her at first?
11. How does the trial affect Kit? How does she change as a result?
12. Was there anything so different from your experience that it was hard to understand or imagine?
13. On page 18, before Kit arrives in America, Nat and John are trying to warn her about differences from her old home. Could we list some differences?
14. On page 47, by the end of the first day, Kit feels that the word "useful" had taken on an alarming meaning. What does the word "useful" mean to you? Would you like to share ways that people are useful?
15. To Kit the meadow where Hannah lives is a place of "peace and quietness and comfort for a troubled heart." Would you like to tell us about a place like that in your life?
16. On page 90, Hannah shows Kit a flower in her garden that came from Africa. Was Hannah trying to share a special lesson with Kit?

17. When Mercy was very sick, two doctors came to help her. What did you think of their treatments?
18. Hannah's cure for sad children is blueberry cake and a kitten. If a sad child came to you, how would you comfort him/her? If you were having a hard time, what would comfort you?
19. We read about how Kit adjusted to her new community. What would it be like for Judith to adjust if she had to move to Barbados?
20. Congratulations: you selected the toughest question! When Kit continues trying to help Hannah, she is disobeying her Uncle Matthew. Was that the right thing to do?
21. Think about the chores at Aunt Rachel and Uncle Matthew's house. Would any of them interest you? Which ones would you do well?
22. Why do the people call Hannah a witch?
23. Please read the posted notice (in italics) on page 152. What do you think of the punishment?
24. What is your favorite part of the story?
25. When Kit asked Mercy on page 103 how she could stand to be left behind because of her disability, Mercy said, "I thought of all the things I would never be able to do. And then I thought about the things that I could do. Since then I've just never thought much about it." How would you describe Mercy? Have you known someone like her?