



8th Grade English Summer Assignment

Book: *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*

Author: Elizabeth George Speare

Available as ISBN-13: 978-0547550299. Also as ISBN-10: 0547550299. (Other editions/publishings may be available; if you use an alternate edition, make sure yours is an unabridged version of the original.)

Set in 1687, *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* is a novel about sixteen-year-old Kit Tyler. Kit has been forced to leave her beloved home on the island of Barbados and join a family she has never met. Kit is greeted with suspicion and disapproval from the moment she arrives on the unfamiliar shores of colonial Connecticut. Torn between her quest for belonging and her desire to be true to herself, Kit struggles to survive in a hostile place. Just when it seems she must give up, she finds a kindred spirit in Hannah Tupper. But Tupper is believed by the colonists to be a witch, and this forces Kit to choose between her heart and her duty.

In preparation for the school year, 8th grade students are required to read *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* by Elizabeth George Speare. After reading, students should respond to each question below with a paragraph (5-7 sentences). The writing assignment is ***due the first day of school, Monday, August 31, 2020.***

Required Reading Assignment: *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* (book details above)

Required Writing Assignment: Answer each question below with a paragraph (5-7 sentences)

1. What do you know about the main character, Kit Tyler? How does she change in the story? What brings about those changes? Describe at least two events Kit was involved in and how these events required her to change.
2. Think of one major event in the story. What caused the event? Why was the event important to the story?
3. In which time period and where did the story take place? What did you learn about the time period? How are the routines and values of their culture different from today's?
4. There were many antagonists throughout the story. Identify one antagonist and explain what they did to try and disrupt the success of the protagonist.
5. Think about the author's writing. What do you notice about the author's style and technique? Describe how the author's tone and word choice impacts the reader's mood and overall character development.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Mr. Gallagher @ gallagherliam18@gmail.com