

## TOG Pre-Rhetoric Literature assignments due at Co-Op 11 on Feb. 9

Please carefully read the entire instructions before starting the assignment.

The questions below are to be answered prior to Co-Op 11.

We will be reading *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* in its entirety. Please review the vocabulary at the bottom of this page prior to reading the book. Answer questions 1-6 in complete sentences and bring your answers to class.

1. In the opening chapters of the book, Kit often thinks of her old home. She notices the many ways her new surroundings in Connecticut are different from Barbados. Draw a line down the middle of a piece of paper and as you read, list details and emotions that contrast Kit's old life with her new life.
2. Do you think Kit makes appropriate choices? Do you think she should have retrieved Prudence's doll or offered clothing to Judith? Why or why not?
3. What methods does Kit use as a teacher—in the schoolroom and with Prudence? How do various people in the community react to her methods? What do these reactions reveal about people's attitudes?
4. Why don't the people of Wethersfield like Hannah Tupper? How does Hannah help Kit find a place in Wethersfield?
5. What happens to Kit after she helps Hannah to reach Nat's ship? What is revealed in these events about the Wethersfield citizens? What is revealed about Matthew and the other leaders of the community?
6. In the end, Matthew shows himself to be law-abiding, even though he is prejudiced against those with different ideas. Do you think it is possible for a good and decent person to have prejudices? Explain your answer.

### Vocabulary from *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*

**auspiciously:** in a manner that suggests a positive outcome; favorably  
**cowed:** intimidated  
**disheartening:** likely to lower morale  
**fulsome:** insensitive  
**hankering:** strong desire  
**nonplussed:** at a loss for words  
**punctilious:** concerned about following rules exactly  
**timorous:** fearful  
**adroit:** skilled  
**composure:** calmness  
**decorum:** conformity to standards of good taste  
**enthral:** to hold spellbound  
**incoherent:** disorganized or hard to understand  
**ingenious:** clever or original

**obstreperous:** noisy; rowdy  
**tryst:** secret agreement or meeting place  
**uproariously:** in a very noisy or funny manner  
**concoct:** to put together  
**instigation:** act of urging, or inciting  
**intercede:** to act as a mediator to resolve differences  
**inveigle:** to persuade through tricks  
**perforce:** by force of circumstance  
**preternatural:** beyond what is ordinary  
**sundry:** various  
**surreptitiously:** secretly  
**tantalizingly:** mockingly, teasingly  
**vengeance:** punishment made to pay back an earlier injury