

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