

together to make the people sick with disease. The rumors keep coming and a witch hunt begins. What will happen to Kit and her friends and family? How will the village change as a result of the events? What happens is comparable to the witch trials and hunts in the Salem Witch Trials.

Title: The Witch of Blackbird Pond



Author: Elizabeth George Speare

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Genre: Historical Fiction

Grade Level: 7th grade and up

Booktalk: Marcy Kunze

Booktalk: Be aware of everything you say and do. One person can start viscous rumors that can get a person into trouble or killed. Today there are some situations that are very similar to the description above. Kit Tyler, a 16 year old, experiences what can happen when a woman in colonial times expresses herself and does what she wants to do. Kit comes from Barbados where she was raised by her Grandfather who has died. She is used to being as “free spirit.” Kit reads what she wants to read, says what she wants to say and does what she wants to do. Things are very different in colonial Connecticut. Kit starts to notice the difference in people’s demeanor on her trip to the American colonies. On the ship she meets the captain’s son, Nat. In addition, Kit gets acquainted with John Holbrook, an understudy of a Puritan celebrity, Dr. Bulkeley. These people first keep their distance from Kit when she jumps into the water to save an abused little girl’s doll. They say that real witches float and regular women sink. This is when the rumors start.

When Kit lands in Connecticut, she surprises her strict Aunt and Uncle of her living with them and their two daughters. Kit is equally shocked at the simple way of life the Puritans live by. Therefore, she gets herself into difficult circumstances. One of the unaccepted acts Kit does is teaching the abused little girl how to read and write. Kit teaches the girl at the forbidden home of Hannah, a Quaker woman. Hannah is thought of as a witch because she is old and keeps to herself. Nat also visits Hannah and starts to bond with the little abused girl and Kit. As a result of the relationships, people see Kit and Hannah as working