

The Witch of Blackbird Pond

Chapters 10–13

by Elizabeth George Speare

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: consternation, discern, fervent, foreboding, indignant, misgiving, nonchalant, stifled, tangible, treason

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Vocabulary Preview 2

Answer Key — Preview 3

Caution: share only if self-checking

OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

Vocabulary in Context 4

Answer Key — In Context 5

Caution: do not share with students

About the Pre-Reading Activity (open-dictionary; ungraded or completion grade):

Students preview 10 words from the upcoming reading, each in a sentence that supports understanding. They choose the best meaning from 3 choices.

About the Optional Post-Reading Quiz (use after reading, or skip):

Same words, now in real excerpts from the text, with questions that build reading and analytical skills.

Vocabulary Sections for this Book:

Section 1 · Chapters 1–4 · Kit's voyage from Barbados

Section 2 · Chapters 5–9 · Kit's first Sabbath in Wethersfield

Section 3 · Chapters 10–13 · Kit's secret visits to Blackbird Pond

Section 4 · Chapters 14–17 · Autumn comes to Wethersfield

Section 5 · Chapters 18–21 · Kit and her uncle grow closer

Bold = this section. Other sections are available at verbalworkout.com.



verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

Vocabulary Preview
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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.

- | | |
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| <p>1. To her consternation, the train left without her.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. anger and blameB. guilt and regretC. dismay and alarm <p>2. In the fog she could barely discern the road ahead.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. to perceiveB. to reachC. to recall <p>3. She gave a fervent speech about saving the park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. intense and passionateB. stiff and formalC. long and detailed <p>4. A sense of foreboding filled her as the sky darkened.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. a feeling of dreadB. a strange confusionC. a quiet sadness <p>5. She was indignant when she was blamed for the mess.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. confused and unsureB. angry over unfairnessC. quietly embarrassed | <p>6. She felt a misgiving before signing the contract.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. a feeling of doubtB. a moment of confusionC. a wave of impatience <p>7. He gave a nonchalant shrug at the bad news.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. slow and wearyB. casually unconcernedC. stiff and formal <p>8. She stifled a laugh during the quiet ceremony.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. fakedB. held backC. started <p>9. The fear in the room was almost tangible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. able to be heardB. able to be hiddenC. able to be touched <p>10. The spy was charged with treason.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. lying to officialsB. stealing state fundsC. betraying one's country |
|--|--|

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

queer — strange; odd

gnarled — knotted, twisted, and rough, especially with age

ANSWER KEY
Vocabulary Preview
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#	KEY
1	C
2	A
3	A
4	A
5	B
6	A
7	B
8	B
9	C
10	C

Vocabulary in Context
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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 10

Read each excerpt carefully. Then choose the best answer to each question.

1 *“Nothing the revered Dr. Bulkeley could say or do could be wrong in his pupil’s eyes, even the fervent defense of the King’s policies which went against all John’s upbringing.”*

As it is used in the passage, the word ‘fervent’ most nearly describes a defense that is...

- A. driven by strong feeling
- B. built on careful logic
- C. stated in formal style

2 *“Taxes? On this swamp land?” Kit was indignant.”*

According to the passage, Kit reacts to the tax as though it were...

- A. a minor annoyance
- B. a confusing mistake
- C. an unfair imposition

3 *“Watching Prudence scurry off toward home, Kit had a moment’s misgiving.”*

The passage most strongly suggests that, as Prudence hurries off, Kit feels...

- A. sudden unease
- B. quiet satisfaction
- C. growing impatience

4 *“What William thought, it was impossible to discern.”*

Which statement is best supported by the passage?

- A. His thoughts could not be made out.
- B. He had no thoughts on the matter.
- C. He purposely hid his thoughts.

5 *“The sun pressed against her with an almost tangible weight.”*

In context, the word ‘tangible’ emphasizes that the sun’s heat felt...

- A. slow to fade
- B. harsh and blinding
- C. real enough to touch

6 *“But that is treason!” “What is treason, Kit? A man is loyal to the place he loves.”*

Which detail best supports the claim that Nat does not view his words as betrayal?

- A. the King could punish such talk
- B. loyalty belongs to the place one loves
- C. his words are dangerous to say

7 *“to glimpse under Nat’s nonchalant surface a flash of the same passion that made life in the Wood household so uncomfortable.”*

It can reasonably be inferred that Nat’s nonchalant manner...

- A. reflects his true mood
- B. hides his confusion
- C. masks deeper feeling

8 *“She expected that when they reached South Road Nat would turn back, but to her consternation he strode along beside her, and even when she hesitated at Broad Street he did not take the hint.”*

As it is used in the passage, the word ‘consternation’ most nearly suggests that Kit felt...

- A. warm pleasure
- B. dismay and alarm
- C. calm amusement

9 *“Then why did Judith’s teasing always raise this cold little lump of foreboding?”*

According to the passage, Judith’s teasing always leaves Kit with...

- A. dread of what’s coming
- B. delight in the joke
- C. anger at the teasing

10 *“She ached with her own stifled protests.”*

The passage most strongly suggests that Kit...

- A. forgot her protests
- B. kept her protests in
- C. no longer felt upset

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	A	
2	C	
3	A	
4	A	
5	C	
6	B	Theme comprehension. Nat recasts loyalty to one's home as no betrayal of country.
7	C	
8	B	
9	A	
10	B	

Teacher Context: Chapters 10–13

Kit returns secretly to Hannah's cottage, drawn into her quiet world and into teaching little Prudence to read there. Friendships and romances deepen and tangle among Kit, her cousins, Nat, John Holbrook, and William. Grouped as the stretch of growing attachments before autumn shifts the story's mood.