

The Artios Home Companion Series

Literature and Composition

Units 7 – 11: Writing a Narrative Essay

The Witch of Blackbird Pond

by Elizabeth George Speare
Literature for Units 7-11



In Units 7 through 11 we will read the story of Kit, an immigrant from Barbados who arrives in Puritan New England. As we explore the novel, we will find out about Kit's adjustment to her new surroundings. At the end of these units, we will use the information gathered from the novel and from other sources to complete a narrative essay describing an immigrant's view of Colonial America or describing a colonist's view of immigrants.

As we are reading *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*, we will also be studying deeper into life on Plymouth Plantation and the Pilgrims. Your assignments for that part of each unit will be found on your **ArtiosHCS** curriculum website at www.ArtiosHCS.com. You will find reading assignments, discussion questions, and vocabulary to learn.

Unit 7 – Assignments

Literature

- Go to your **ArtiosHCS** curriculum website for this unit and read about life on Plymouth Plantation as assigned there. You will also find Discussion Questions to go with the reading.

Activity While Reading: Answer the discussion questions in your reading journal. Be sure to use complete sentences and check for correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

- Read Chapters 1-8 of *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*.

Activity While Reading: Fold a sheet of paper in half vertically. On one side write "Barbados" and on the other side write "America." As you read, take notes on what Kit thinks and feels about the similarities and differences between Barbados and America.

Unit 8 – Assignments

Literature

- Go to your [ArtiosHCS](#) curriculum website for this unit and continue learning about life on Plymouth Plantation as assigned there. You will also find Discussion Questions to go with the reading.

Activity While Reading: Answer the discussion questions in your reading journal. Be sure to use complete sentences and check for correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

- Read Chapters 9-16 of *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*.

Activity While Reading: In this unit you will track the relationships between the characters. Note how the characters interact with each other and note how each character feels about the others. Characters to track include: Kit Tyler, Hannah Tupper, Nat Eaton, John Holbrook, Mercy Wood, Judith Wood, William Ashby, etc.

Unit 9 – Assignments

Literature and Composition

- Once again, go to your [ArtiosHCS](#) curriculum website for this unit and continue learning about life on Plymouth Plantation as assigned there. You will also find Discussion Questions to go with the reading.

Activity While Reading: Answer the discussion questions in your reading journal. Be sure to use complete sentences and check for correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

Read the remaining chapters 17-21 of *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*.

Activity While Reading: As you finish the novel, pay attention to how the story is resolved. Create a story chart that shows the progression of the action from the exposition to the resolution. You may use an interactive story map tool to track the characters and the action of the story:

Unit 10 – Assignments

Composition

- Read the Assignment Background below and begin planning your narrative essay. You should use the charts and the information from your research to help create a believable story.
- Choose one of the following topics. You may write the story from the viewpoint of a child or an adult:
 - You are an immigrant who has just arrived in colonial Connecticut. Write a story that details the trials you face as you adjust to your new surroundings.
 - You are a Puritan living in colonial Connecticut. Write a story that details your daily life.
- Write a rough draft of your narrative essay.

Unit 10 – Assignment Background

Narrative Essay

Now that we have finished the novel, we will focus on writing a narrative essay detailing a period of time of an immigrant or a Puritan in Colonial America. A narrative essay, if written as a story, should contain all of the parts of a typical story:

- **Introduction:** The introduction should reveal the setting of the story and any background information that is necessary to understanding the rest of the story. When you write the introduction, try to explain the setting in a way that allows the reader to form a picture of the location in his mind. Be sure to use descriptive words that show rather than tell your reader where the story takes place.
- **Plot:** The plot is the sequence of events in the story.
 - **Exposition** – reveals the setting and the characters (this information is included in your introduction).
 - **Rising Action** – where the story events build toward the climax. This is the part of the story where the main character moves through events to achieve his/her goal.
 - **Climax** – the point in the story where the main character either achieves his goal or does not achieve his goal.
 - **Resolution** – the end of the story. In the resolution, the author reveals why the character did or did not achieve her goal.
- **Conflict:** Conflict is what opposes your character or what tries to keep your character from attaining his or her goals. There are two types of conflict:
 - **External** – conflict occurs when some outside force opposes your protagonist.
 - **Internal** – conflict occurs when the protagonist struggles against himself or some ideal when trying to reach his or her goal.
- **Character:** These are the people who help move the story along and participate in the events of the story. For your narrative, you should trace the events that follow one main character who meets other characters that help him/her along the way.
- **Point of View:** This is point of view of the narrator of the story. For this essay, you should write in first-person participant, using the pronoun “I” to tell your story.

Unit 11 – Assignments

Composition

- Check the **Language Arts Resources** at your **ArtiosHCS** curriculum website for links to sites with more information on writing narrative essays.
- Read through your narrative essay to make sure you are showing rather than telling the information of your story.
- Use the rubric in the **Language Arts Resources** section of your **ArtiosHCS** curriculum website to make sure you have included the necessary information in your essay.
- Read through your essay and correct any errors in grammar or mechanics, then complete a final draft.