

June 2025

Dear Parents,

At St. Paul School, it is the aim of the Administration and Faculty to prepare your child in the best manner for their future.

To maintain and enhance your child's skills, enrichment work is being assigned for the summer months. Incoming 7<sup>th</sup> graders are being asked to read *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* by Elizabeth George Speare and answer the questions listed either handwritten on lined paper or typed in Times New Roman 14-point font. Students will **also** choose one of the listed activities to complete and use as a cover sheet. These activity choices reflect information that they have covered in other classes, such as Religion, Science, and Social Studies.

All questions will be collected during the first week of school and counted as an ILA project for the first marking period. Five points will be taken off every day that the assignment is not turned in. During the first week of school, students will also review and take a test on the story, so please make sure that they are paying close attention to the title, author, plot, characters and theme as they are reading! It would be helpful if they had a copy of the book with them at school as well.

Your cooperation, interest, and support are vital. Please provide the proper encouragement and guidance so that your child will be able to achieve their potential and maintain and improve their skills. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me: [mpugh@stpaulbrl.org](mailto:mpugh@stpaulbrl.org).

Have an enjoyable summer!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Meghan Pugh

## Summer Reading Project

### *The Witch of Blackbird Pond Book Report*

This year in 7<sup>th</sup> grade we will be focusing on the various genres of literature (Folk, Historical Fiction, Nonfiction, Mystery, Poetry, Realistic Fiction, and Science Fiction). Over the summer, you will read Elizabeth George Speare's *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*, which is an example of Historical Fiction. Attached you will find some questions that you will answer as you read the story.

All work will be collected during the first week of school and counted as an ILA test grade for the first trimester. As always, remember that you will lose points for errors in spelling, grammar, and punctuation, so please proofread your work. Check to be sure that you are turning in **all** parts of the assignment, because points will be taken off your grade for every day that the assignment is late.

When you return to school, you will also take a test on the book, so please make sure that you are paying attention to the title, author, plot, characters and theme as you are reading! We will review in class as well, so please make sure you have a copy of the book with you.

Pick **one** of the following activities to complete along with the questions. This should be attached as a cover sheet. (10 points)

1. Draw a map of the Eastern coastline of North America from Maine to the Caribbean. Mark important places from the story on the map and include other common map features, such as a compass rose and a map key.
2. Draw a picture of two characters from the story, one male and the other female. Label who they are and at least five different parts of their wardrobe. Underneath, write a paragraph comparing their clothes to the fashions of today.
3. Create a chart to compare and contrast the ecosystems of Barbados and Connecticut. Include the weather, the average temperature in each of the four seasons, and unique plants and animals in each ecosystem.

Answer the following questions **after** you read each chapter. Make sure to answer each question completely:

1. **Chapter 1:** According to some of the passengers, what is a sure sign of a witch? (1 point)
2. **Chapter 2:** What cargo will the Eatons not haul? Why? (2 points)
3. **Chapter 4:** Judith complains, "There's no Scriptures saying Mother has to be the one to do all the caring..." What does the Bible say about caring for the poor and the widows? Be sure to cite the book and chapter where you found that quote in the Bible (for example Isaiah 58:6-7; find a different one). How do you, your family, or your Church community follow this passage? (3 points)
4. **Chapter 5:** What was the purpose of the Sabbath? Do you honor the Sabbath? How? Why or why not? (4 points)
5. **Chapter 7:** Read the description of William Ashby and his behavior on their "first date." Judith and Kit disagree about what characteristics are desirable in a marriage. What is your opinion? Do you think he and Kit are a good match? Why or why not? (3 points)
6. **Chapter 9:** A **symbol** in literature is an object, an event, or a character that represents an idea or a set of ideas. How is Hannah's tropical flower a symbol for Kit? Explain how they are similar. (2 points)
7. **Chapter 10:** Why did Aunt Rachel warn Kit not to talk about her visit with Hannah Tupper? Is this a good enough reason for Kit to stay away? (2 points)
8. **Chapter 11:** Kit laments that "...most of these children would never even imagine the adventure that words could mean." What is your favorite story? Write a summary of it and explain why it's your favorite. (2 points)
9. **Chapter 12:** Nat tells Kit "I can still see the green feathers if I look hard enough. But they've done their best to make you into a sparrow, haven't they?" How is Kit like the bird that he's described? (Think about the definition of symbolism in #6.) (1 point)
10. **Chapter 13:** Based on what you read, what is John Holbrook's character weakness? How does this get him into trouble? (2 points)
11. **Chapter 14:** Kit is amazed by the New England autumn. What is your favorite season and why? (2 points)
12. **Chapter 16:** What does Nat do to William's house? What does this suggest about his feelings towards William? (2 points)
13. **Chapter 18:** What had happened to Goody Harrison and Goody Johnson? Why? (2 points)
14. **Chapter 19:** What was Adam Cruft's argument for withdrawing the charges against Kit? (1 point)
15. **Chapter 20:** What did Kit decide about William? Why did she make this decision? (2 points)
16. **Chapter 21:** What had Nat named his ketch? Why? (2 points)