# **Intro to American & British Lit: Reading Responses**

Good writing has good ideas and good thinking. It is clear, precise, and concise. Make your answers reflect these qualities.

Do NOT summarize the story or include long quotes. I know the story well. Instead, react and respond to ideas in the story. Why are they important or interesting or worth thinking about? How do the ideas in the story connect to your life and experienceWhat questions do you have? (Not “what questions might impress the teacher?”

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| English name (optional) |  | | Date | | 2024/7/3 |
| Reading Response to Book/Chapters | | About how long did this take to read? | | | 6h |
| The Witch of Blackbird Pond  Chapter 4 to 8 | | How difficult was it? (0-5)  (0 = easy …5 = impossible to understand) | | | 3 |
| How interesting was it? (0-5)  (0 = so boring … 5 = loved it) | | | 4 |
| New vocabulary/language | | | | | |
| **10+ Words I needed to look up** (with brief English definition) | | | | **10+ Words I guessed the meaning of** (with your guess) | |
| **Frippery** : Ornamental articles of little value; showy but worthless finery.  **Pudgy** : slightly fat; plump  **frippery** : showy but worthless finery or decoration  **Endurance** : The ability to withstand hardship or adversity; the capacity for continuing exertion or persistence.  **Straining** : Experiencing pressure or tension, often to the point of being stretched or stressed.  **Pompous** : Self-important, especially in a way that is exaggerated or undeserved.  **Whited** : Made to appear more appealing or respectable than it really is.  **Clad** : Covered or dressed in a specified material or clothing.  **Choosy** : Selective or particular, especially in a way that seems overly critical or demanding.  **Menial** : Relating to or suited for routine, low-skilled, or physically demanding work.  **Selectmen** : Local government officials in some New England towns, responsible for various administrative duties. | | | | **gorgeous** : beautiful  **paduasoy** : silk fabric  **unseemly** : inappropriate  **carding** : brushing wool  **trencher** : wooden plate  **frippery** : fancy **stumped** : stomped  **nasal** : relating to the nose  **nonplussed** : confused  **straining** : stretching **bonne**t : hat  **knuckling** : bending  **unbent** : relaxed  **timorous** : fearful  **menial** : low  **wisp** : thin strand  **dame** : school | |
| Ideas from this reading that would be interesting to discuss | | | | | |
| 1. I hold that the contrast between Kit's privileged upbringing in Barbados and her new life in Wethersfield highlights the cultural and societal differences she must navigate.This can make an intresesting discussion on how personal identity and societal expectations clash and adapt in the face of such drastic changes. 2. The role of gender in the Wood family, especially how the absence of his son affects Matthew Wood and the family, and how Kit's presence challenges these expectations. I suspect this will be a big part of the storyline later on, and it will give an answer. 3. From Kit’s personal perspective, I found it interesting to explore how Kit’s understanding of her aunt and uncle evolved through her interactions with the Wood family, and how she began to find her place in the community. | | | | | |
| Questions about the story (include language, culture, story) | | | | | |
| 1. Are there conflicts between Kit's uncle Matthew and the townspeople, particularly Reverend Bulkeley, regarding loyalty to the King and the charter? And how these conflicts effect the family and the Kit. I’ve saw a lot of conversation scenes with quarrels, but in fact I don't quite understand. 2. Does Kit develop a relationship with William Ashby, who starts courting her, and does she also interact with John Holbrook? What is her idea? Kit seems to think that if she marries William she won't have to do menial labor (the kind that slaves in her hometown didn't do). 3. Kit seems to be gradually realizing the difficulties of her new family and beginning to understand Matthew (I don’t know if this is right, I find that I am always unsure whether I get the implicit meaning of the language of this novel) | | | | | |
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