# **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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| Chinese Name | 徐靖 | | Student ID # | | 2200012917 |
| Pinyin name | Jing Xu | | Section # | | 1 |
| English name (optional) |  | | Date | | 2024/7/4 |
| Reading Response to Book/Chapters | | About how long did this take to read? | | | 7h |
| The Witch of Blackbird Pond  Chapter 16 to 21 | | 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) | | | 2 |
| New vocabulary/language | | | | | |
| **10+ Words I needed to look up** (with brief English definition) | | | | **10+ Words I guessed the meaning of** (with your guess) | |
| **Roistering :** Engaging in noisy and boisterous behavior, often in a celebratory or disorderly manner.  **Delirious :** Experiencing confusion, agitation, or incoherence, often as a result of fever or illness.  **Flaring :** Burning with a bright, unsteady flame.  **Thrashing :** A violent flailing or beating movement, often used to describe the noise made by something or someone moving through dense vegetation or struggling.  **Inveigled :** Persuaded someone to do something, often in a cunning or deceptive way.  **preternatural :** beyond what is normal or natural; supernatural  **Queer :** Strange or unusual  **Festivity :** A joyful celebration or event.  **lutestring :** A fine, smooth, glossy silk fabric, often used for dresses.  **reassurance :** something that makes you feel safe and confident | | | | **devious :** tricky  **woebegone :** sad  **Gruel :** Thin porridge  **Consorting :** Associating  **Bounden :** Obligatory  **Wraithlike :** Ghostly  **summat :** something  **Hornbook :** Primer  **flaxwheel :** spinning wheel  **gaunt :** thin and bony  **tantalizing :** teasing  **Chipper :** Lively | |
| Ideas from this reading that would be interesting to discuss | | | | | |
| 1. Throughout the book, I still feel that the plot is a bit deliberate and hasty, there is not enough foreshadowing in many places, and the happy ending is a bit abrupt. But I think the description of this novel is particularly vivid, giving me the feeling of being in New England in the 17th century. I think this is a point worth discussing (about how this novel shapes the natural and social environment) 2. Kit finally chose Nat over William. I think the most intuitive reason is that Nat came to Kit's defense despite the ban when she was on trial (while William seemed to do nothing), but I think there should be some other contrasts between the two boys. What kind of personality traits made Kit make the final choice? | | | | | |
| Questions about the story (include language, culture, story) | | | | | |
| 1. I didn't quite understand the judges' behavior during Kit's trial. Did their attitude change as the trial progressed? (Through Prudence writing her name and reading the Bible) Or did they tend to be more inclined to Kit's innocence from the beginning and just follow the judicial process? 2. What was John's reason for leaving Dr. Bulkeley and coming back? I knew Dr. Bulkeley was going to publish an article in support of the new government, and that was inconsistent with John's views. So did John join the militia to put his position into practice? | | | | | |
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