*The Witch of Blackbird Pond* Socratic Seminar Questions

Rules:

- One speaker at a time (individual with the “world”)

- Disagree respectfully (idea not the person, logic not put-down)

- Use evidence when making claims

1. What do you think makes a “good relationship”? Besides romantic interests, did any of the characters in the book have “good relationships”? Who and why?
2. How do the “rules” change for Kit from Barbados to Connecticut? In what ways does she adapt her behavior to the new rules? In what ways does she not adapt? Have you ever had to change your behavior to adapt to the new “rules”?
3. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Individual freedom is more important than doing things for the good of the community. Who were some characters that believed one way or the other? Did anyone change their perspective on this question by the end of the book?
4. When did you first think there might be something between Nat and Kit? What qualities do they each possess that makes them a good match?
5. When Kit continues trying to help Hannah, she is disobeying her Uncle Matthew. Was that the right thing to do? Are there ever times where it is okay to do the opposite of what you’re told?
6. Do you think the townspeople’s persecution of Kit is motivated primarily by fear or jealousy or some other emotion? Why? Have you ever reacted to something irrationally because of one these emotions?
7. William Ashby says to Kit after the trial, “It would make a man uneasy never knowing what his wife would do next,” to which she replies, “ ’Twould make a wife uneasy never knowing whether she could depend on her husband.” What is this exchange really about? Is either one of them right or wrong in how they feel?
8. In the end, Matthew shows himself to be law-abiding, even though he is prejudiced against those with different ideas. Do you think it is possible for a good and decent person to have prejudices?
9. What is the theme of *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* ?