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| **Question**  **Socratic Seminar Prep Notes for The Witch of Blackbird Pond**  **Directions:** Answer all questions by providing evidence from the text to support your response. You must list the page number. Use another sheet of paper if you need more space. | **Response with Textual Evidence as Support** | **Page**  **Numbers** |
| 1. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Individual freedom is more important than doing things for the good of the community. Essentially, a person should follow his or her own heart, even if it means disobeying rules or going against the rest of the group. Support your answer with evidence from the text. |  |  |
| 2. Which incident in Kit’s life had the most impact? Why? (Think of her actions, beliefs, thoughts, decisions, etc.) |  |  |
| 3. Kit moves to a society in which her choices are much more restricted than they were when she was growing up. Make a list of choices that you have today, especially in such areas as education, behavior, occupation, dress, and the choice of a mate. Then, consider the cultural factors that might restrict your choices in some way, and what happens when someone breaks through the restrictions and chooses a path not sanctioned by society. How do these choices compare to Kit’s? How do they differ? |  |  |
| 4. What was the author’s purpose in writing this novel? Was the author successful? What lessons could you learn from reading this? |  |  |
| 5. The Wethersfield people blamed Hannah Tupper for the epidemic that swept through the town. What other incident in history had a person or a group of people being used as a scapegoat for hard times? What parallels do you see between this incident and Hannah’s ordeal? |  |  |
| 6. 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? Provide specific examples to support your claim. |  |  |
| 7. We read about how Kit adjusted to her new community. Think of a time when you had to adjust to something new. How did you and Kit adjust similarly? How did you handle things differently? |  |  |
| 8. How important is it to you to “fit in”? What factors determine whether or not a person fits in with a group? |  |  |
| 9. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: People act irrationally when they are afraid. Support your answer with evidence from the text. |  |  |
| 10. Are your first impressions of people usually accurate? Recall a time when your first impressions proved to be wrong. What caused you to change them? |  |  |

<http://www.brightonlibrary.info/witch_blackbird_pond>