

## THE SACRIFICE

### Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Award Nominee 2008 Grades 6-8

Submitted by Tammy Mulhearn, Graduate Student, LSU School of Library & Information Science, (Professor: Dr. Margie Thomas); and Kimberly Bageant, Student, University of Louisiana at Lafayette (Instructor: Dorothy Grimsley)

**The Sacrifice** by Kathleen Benner Duple. Margaret K. McElderry Books (Simon & Schuster), 2005. 211 pages.

#### Summary

This story, based on true events that occurred during the witch-hunts in 1692 in Andover, Massachusetts, is told from the perspective of ten-year old Abigail. People had begun to fear that there were witches in Andover, so two afflicted girls were brought from Salem to identify the witches. Abigail was afraid that her father would be accused because he suffered from fits, but it was Abigail and Dorothy who were accused of being witches for causing their father's illness. They were taken to the Salem jailhouse and locked into a rat and lice-infested, damp, cold, and dirty cell where their aunt died. Their pregnant mother visited them and persuaded her daughters to accuse her. She believed that her sentence would be delayed because of her pregnancy and that by the time the baby would be born the madness may have passed. Abigail didn't know how she could accuse her own mother; but when the trial came, she said, "Aye, my mother did tell me to do this," and her mother was taken away. We learn in the author's note that the governor later ended the witch trials and Abigail's mother was freed.

*The Sacrifice* is engrossing, well written, and fast-paced and will work for cross-curricular units. Read an excerpt: <http://www.simonsays.com/content/book.cfm?tab=1&pid=511247&agid=2>

#### Awards

Jefferson Cup Award (Worthy of Note 2006 Grades 6-9 United States)  
Winner 2005/2006 Book Sense Children's Picks  
Booklist Top Ten Historical Fiction for Youth

#### Author's Biography

Kathleen Benner Duple was born in Fayetteville, North Carolina, and grew up near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In 1980 earned a degree in Creative Writing from Miami University in Oxford Ohio. She lives with her husband and two children in Boxford, Massachusetts. The inspiration for *The Sacrifice* came when she discovered that she was living on the same land as her ancestors who were involved in the witch-hunt.

<http://www.kathleenduble.com/index.html>

<http://www.charlesbridge.com/contributorinfo.cfm?ContribID=200>

<http://www.simonsays.com/content/destination.cfm?tab=1&pid=500083&agid=13>

#### Other Titles by Kathleen Benner Duple

*Hearts Of Iron*

*Pilot Mom*

*Burning Beyond*

#### Related Titles

*Beyond the Burning Time* by Kathryn Lasky.

*A Break with Charity: A Story about the Salem Witch Trials* by Ann Rinaldi.

*Catch a Tiger by the Toe* by Ellen Levine.

*The Devil in Massachusetts* by Marion L. Starkey.  
*The Devil in Salem Village: The Story of the Salem Witchcraft Trials* by Laurel Van der Linde.  
*I, Tituba, Black Witch of Salem* by Maryse Conde.  
*I Walk in Dread: the Diary of Deliverance Trembly, Witness to the Salem Witch Trials* by Lisa Rowe Fraustino.  
*In the Days of the Salem Witch Trials* by Marilynne K. Roach.  
*Salem Witch (My Side of the Story)* by Patricia Hermes.  
*The Minister's Daughter* by Julie Hearn.  
*The Salem Witch Trials: An unsolved Mystery from History* by Jane Yolen, Heidi Elisabet Y Stemple, Roger Roth.  
*The Salem Witch Trials: A Day-by-Day Chronicle of a Community Under Siege* by Marilynne K. Roach.  
*The Witch of Blackbird Pond* by Elizabeth Speare.  
*Witch Child* by Celia Rees.  
*Tituba of Salem Village* by Ann Lane Petry.

## **Classroom Connections**

### **Study Guide for *The Sacrifice* on Kathleen Brenner Duble's Web Site**

<http://www.kathleenduble.com/index.html>

This site includes information about the author and how to contact her. Especially helpful is the section labeled "For Teachers." The study guide includes questions to connect the story to social studies, history, language arts, art, and science curriculums. The questions are to challenge students to think critically about the issues in the story and to connect those issues to today.

### **Understanding the Salem Witch Trials**

[http://edsitement.neh.gov/view\\_lesson\\_plan.asp?id=707](http://edsitement.neh.gov/view_lesson_plan.asp?id=707)

This site contains a web quest with questions and links about the history of the Salem witch trials.

### **Salem Witch Trials: The World Behind the Hysteria**

<http://school.discovery.com/schooladventures/salemwitchtrials/>

This site provides a short background of the events of 1692. Site has links to the story of the witch-hunt and the people behind the trials. It has a short description of what life was like for Puritan children. The site also provides teacher's tips with national standards correlations and a detailed curriculum focus.

## **Web Sites**

### **National Geographic.com**

<http://plasma.nationalgeographic.com/features/97/salem/index.html>

National Geographic has created an interactive witchcraft experience. The students can live the life of an accused witch with ominous pictures and graphics.

### **Secrets of the Dead**

[http://www.pbs.org/wnet/secrets/case\\_salem/index.html](http://www.pbs.org/wnet/secrets/case_salem/index.html)

This interactive site explains the theory that grain infected with ergot may have caused the symptoms of the tormented girls. It includes a science lesson plan to integrate teaching about fungus with the Salem witch trials.

### **Famous American Trials**

<http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/salem/SALEM.HTM>

This site created by Douglas O. Linder of the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law is excellent for locating original documents, letters, pictures and maps dealing with the Salem witch trials. It includes a detailed timeline of events leading up to the hysteria and biographies of the people associated with the trials. An interactive section challenges students to make their own decisions about what they would do if accused and explains what the consequences of their actions would be. It also includes a jeopardy game that the students may play.

### **Salem Witch Trials**

<http://www.iath.virginia.edu/salem/home.html>

This site contains information about court records and personal records. It also has a map of Salem and a map of Andover.

### **The Salem Witch Trials 1692/A Chronology of Events**

<http://www.salemweb.com/memorial/>

Brief descriptions of the events that occurred in Salem in 1692.

### **Salem Witchcraft: The Events and Causes of the Salem Witch Trials**

<http://www.salemwitchtrials.com/salemwitchcraft.html>

Biographies of the accused, trial transcripts and a quiz on the Salem Witch Trials.

### **What About Witches**

<http://www.salemweb.com/guide/witches.shtml>

City guide to Salem, Massachusetts.