

What Were the Salem Witch Trials?

Joan Holub , Dede Putra (Illustrations) , Kevin McVeigh (Illustrations)

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Something wicked was brewing in the small town of Salem, Massachusetts in 1692. It started when two girls, Betty Parris and Abigail Williams, began having hysterical fits. Soon after, other local girls claimed they were being pricked with pins. With no scientific explanation available, the residents of Salem came to one conclusion: it was witchcraft! Over the next year and a half, nineteen people were convicted of witchcraft and hanged while more languished in prison as hysteria swept the colony. Author Joan Holub gives readers and inside look at this sinister chapter in history.

What Were the Salem Witch Trials? Details


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From Reader Review What Were the Salem Witch Trials? for online ebook

Erin Pierce says

Interesting biography.

MaKenzie Parish says

I think this is a really good way for learning about the witch trial or needing to find information on it because this is a really good way that i learned about the witch trails in Salem. This book is obviously about the Salem witch trial and how/ how did they become so deadly. The most coolest fact that I learned was that people was choose by the church people to see of they were a witch. The person was put to the test and mostly there was no way for yo to live even if you whee not a witch.

Nick says

I liked It but wasn't crazy about It. It is a non fiction book about lying horrible little girls who acted all sick and blamed people calling them witches. They did not give them fair trials. They suffered horrible deaths. Even a four year old. It was also the blame game. one woman blaming the other and same with that one and that one and that one. (vice versa)

What I liked about this is how fascinating it is how every so called witch was a girl. (well there was two guys..... but that's it!) and one a slave. others poor. anyway the girls knew no one would defend a slave woman or other women. (sad times.)

what I learned from this is.... never pull a stunt like that or everything will get messed up and there will be no turning back.

Michelle says

A clear and concise treatment of the Salem Witch Trials of 1692. The Salem Witch Trials is one of the most puzzling chapters in American history. In January 1692, two young girls in the home of Salem Village's pastor started to act strangely. They started to babble incoherently and where seized by fits. The girls were diagnosed by a physician as being bewitched. After the pastor's slave confessed to bewitching the girls a witch hunt swept the community. By the time the panic had subsided more than two hundred residents, mostly women, had been accused of witchcraft and twenty had been executed.

There are still a lot of unanswered questions about the panic, the biggest one being what caused the original affliction of the girls. "What Were the Salem Witch Trials?" clearly outlines the timeline of events and the main players involved. Most narratives of the trials gets bogged down by the vast number of players. But Joan Holub does an excellent job in limiting the narrative to the key players, which makes this book a perfect introduction to the Salem Witch Trials for children and adults. Dede Putra's atmospheric illustrations complement the text. The author provided a helpful bibliography of books for adult and young--a plus for those who want to read more about the trials.

The Reading Countess says

Easy to digest for little readers, parts of this skinny book will augment our The Witch of Blackbird Pond.

Sarah says

3.5 YA

Cheryl says

There's too many names written in here that it gets confusing. I kept losing track on who we were talking about.

Bella says

The Salem Witch Trails are a very complex topic, a very complicated subject. This book cleared up what I didn't get about the subject. This book helps you fully understand the unfairness of the trails. I recommend this book to people who love history and/or just like learning about something new.

Bernadette Kearns says

After reading another book with a mention of the witch trials, I realized I knew very little about these tragic deaths. This book was a informative introduction to the topic and is appropriate for elementary readers who are curious about the topic. My favorite features of the series are all of the pages with a quick look at related topics or a specific person/issue not expanded upon in the narrative. The main narrative writing was fine, just not terribly compelling.

Sheri says

This is a perfect reselling of this crazy event for younger readers.

Rachel says

Very interesting. It's a very condensed version of the Salem Witch trials but it was still informative.

Ellie says

Very informative and good introduction to the Salem Witch Trials.

Lino says

The salem witch trials is about from a loge time ago there were slavery in 1711 and i like this story because i like history in story we you do not follow the rules you will get hang in a rope and people do not like it we they do that.

Natalie says

First review of 2016! Wahoo!

Something's bubbling and brewing in Salem, Mass. and it's not looking good for several of the villagers. Most adults know the generals of the Salem Witch Trials, but a lot of kids don't. (I asked my fifth graders the exact question "What were the Salem Witch Trials?" and, out of 35 students, only 2 had even heard of and they didn't know what it was.) Holub gives a great introduction to the history of the Trials. She included a lot of little facts that I didn't even know. It was fascinating to read about what happened to many of the participants following the Trials.

Fabulous series for adults and kids alike!

Milagros Tirado says

It was interesting. I like how it has the meaning of different events. I like how the pictures correspond with the article.
