

Name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

SCORE/GRADE:

CONTEXT: *The Bronze Bow*

Fill in the story chart on the following page with details about the author's life.

- Use the “setting” area to describe when and where the author lived.
- Use the “characters” area to identify important people in the author's life.
- Use the “conflict” bubble to describe the major problem faced by the author.
- Use the “plot” bubbles to describe the major events of the author's life.
- Use the “climax” bubble to describe an event that resolved the major problem, whether for good or ill

SETTING

Elizabeth George Speare was born in Melrose, Massachusetts in 1908. A twentieth century author, she evidences an awareness of the philosophical underpinnings of her time. For example, many of her contemporaries were rationalists due to the effects of the scientific revolution. Rationalism holds that reality is defined by the evidence of the senses, and that the invisible or unverifiable has questionable standing. In her stories, however, Speare champions the spiritual realm and the invisible kingdom of God.

CHARACTERS

Speare's parents:

Harry Allan and Demetria Simmons-George

Husband:

Alden Speare

Children:

Alden Jr. and Mary

Climax:

When her children were grown, Speare indulged in her old habit of composing stories: among them *Calico Captive*, *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*, and *The Bronze Bow*. Both of the latter titles earned her Newbery Awards.

Rising Action:

Speare attended Smith College for her Bachelor of Arts and Boston University for her Masters degree. After teaching high school English for 4 years, she married Alden Speare in 1936 and became a homemaker.

Denouement:

In 1989 Mrs. Speare was awarded the Laura Ingalls Wilder Award for substantial and enduring contribution to children's literature. She has been cited by notable sources as one of the 100 most popular children's authors of all time.

Exposition:

Speare was born in 1908 in Melrose, Massachusetts. She enjoyed an idyllic childhood in the New England countryside and drew inspiration from many solitary hours.

Conclusion:

Speare died of an aortic aneurysm on November 15, 1994, in Northwest General Hospital, in Tucson, Arizona.

PLOT

CONFLICT

Speare loved to write from the tender age of 8 years old, but she didn't dedicate time to her craft until her children were in junior high school. At that time, enriched by the experience of her full life and possessed of a fertile imagination, she began to produce Newbery Award quality works of literature.