



## The Witch Hunts

### Word Study

Adjournment	affected	vengeance	indict
Trial	blow out of	bewitch	testify
Proportions	plead	confess	black magic
Guilty	repentance	blame	indictment
Afflict	sorcery	witchcraft	prevail
Expel	depose	healer	torment
Clairvoyant	magistrate	claim	deposition

### From The Wonders of the Invisible World By Cotton Mather

#### The trial of Martha Carrier at the Court of Oyer and Terminer, held by Adjournment at Salem, August 2, 1692

I. Martha Carrier was indicted for the bewitching of certain persons, according to the form usual in such cases, pleading not guilty to her indictment. There were first brought in a considerable number of the bewitched persons who not only made the court sensible of

an horrid witchcraft committed upon them, but also deposed that it was Martha Carrier, or her shape, that grievously tormented them by biting, pricking, pinching and chocking them. It was further deposed that while this Carrier was on her examination before the magistrates, the poor people were so tortured that everyone expected their death upon the very spot but that upon the binding of Carrier they were eased. Moreover the look of Carrier then laid the afflicted people for dead; which things were also now seen upon her trial. And it was testified that upon the mention of some having their necks twisted round, by the shape of this Carrier, she replied, “”It’s no matter though their necks had been twisted quite off.””

II. Before the trial of this prisoner several of her own children had frankly and fully confessed not only that they were witches themselves, but that this, their mother, had made them so. This confession they made with great shows of repentance and with much demonstration of truth.

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V. One Foster, who confessed her own share in the witchcraft for which the prisoner stood indicted, affirmed that she had seen the prisoner at some of their witch meetings, and that it was this Carrier who persuaded her to be a witch. She confessed that the devil carried them on a pole to a witch meeting, but the pole broke, and she was hanging about Carrier’s neck, they both fell down, and she then received an hurt by the fall, whereof she was not at this very time recovered.

VI. One Lacy, who likewise confessed her share in this witchcraft, now testified that she and the prisoner were once bodily present at a witch meeting in Salem village and that she knew the prisoner to be a witch and to have been at a diabolical sacrament, and that the prisoner was the undoing of her and her children by enticing them into the snare of the devil.

**Find the Romanian equivalent of the following words and phrases:**

To indict	to bewitch	to commit witchcraft
To depose	to torment	to bite
To prick	to pinch	to choke
Upon the very spot	to bind	to ease
To afflict	to testify	to twist
To repent	repentance	to persuade
Whereof	to entice	snare, sacrament

**Fill in the gaps using these words:**

- Let's continue ...we stopped!
- She was .....for witchcraft.
- Many people complained of being.....
- ..... is an offence.
- He .....that he had received a bribe.
- She says she is mentally .....by a witch.
- The dog may ..... a stranger.
- The thorns.....my finger.
- The little girl ....her friend, who started crying.
- He almost ..... with a fish bone.
- She is standing.....where they had found the coins.
- The rules always.....people to act accordingly.
- They must....the sanctions.
- The look of Carrier laid the ....people for dead.
- She refuses.....
- .....the rope once more!
- He ..... for his sins.
- The family wants.....her to testify.
- He was ...by the offer of this company.
- You are not tied by such a .....
- He was enticed into the ..... of the devil.

**Select the accusations brought against Martha Carrier:**

- She bewitched certain persons
- She tormented people

Formulate and write down your accusation as if you were a witness in court, ready to testify against her.

**Introductory paragraph:**

## Accusations

### Closing paragraph

**Form nouns from the following verbs using the following suffixes:** -ment, -ing, -tion, -y, -sion, -ance.

Adjourn	indict	bewitch
Plead	depose	torment
Affect	testify	try
Confess	repent	afflict

### Turn the following sentences passive:

They indicted Martha Carrier for witchcraft.

They brought in a number of bewitched persons.

The witch tormented them in various ways.

The magistrates examined Carrier.

The look of Carrier laid the afflicted people for dead.

They saw strange things at her trial/

They testified against Carrier.

In Europe, courts also judged witches.

Witch-hunting in Africa combines superstitions and socio-economic problems.

People do not sentence witches to death nowadays.

## Witch Hunts Today

It is not only the Court at Salem that judged witchcraft cases; throughout Europe, a high number of women were burned as witches during the Great Hunt, one of the harshest periods of punishment in European history.

Just like in Europe and any other parts of the world, witch-hunting in Africa is closely tied to superstitions and the socio-economic background, even personal jealousy. The favouring

factors are poorly educated villagers, traditional healers and clairvoyants: witches claim to have supernatural powers. Moreover, plights like hunger, poverty, unemployment breed jealousies that grow easily into anger and vengeance. The villagers always blame fate and black magic for undesirable events. Witch hunts still claim many lives throughout the world, especially in Africa. Many times their own families accuse them of witchcraft, and expel them. Not only women are accused of witchcraft, but men also. The physical attributes they are given are greyish skin, red eyes, some physical disablement; traveling about upside down, bad temper, secrecy, jealousy are most frequently presented as main moral attributes; they are accused of practicing incest and cannibalism.

The new trend followed by the witches is to build their own website, advertising their powers and capabilities, to attract clients; they charge for their services and there is intense competition among them. Who would think of burning them on pyre nowadays?

**Find words in the text that mean:**

- cazuri de vrăjitorie
- una dintre cele mai aspre perioade
- superstiții persistente
- săteni slab educați
- vindecători tradiționali
- clarvăzători
- susțin că au puteri supranaturale
- sunt exagerate
- răzbunare
- magie neagră
- sunt expulzați
- se crede că practică incestul și canibalismul
- a le arde pe rug

**Answer the following questions using details from the text, according to the model provided:**

Model: What is one of the harshest periods of punishment in European history called? The Great Hunt.

- What is the witch hunt in Africa closely tied to? ....., ....., .....
- What do witches claim to have? .....
- What plights create jealousies? ....., ....., .....
- What do villagers blame for any event? ....., .....
- Who accuses victims most often? .....
- What physical traits are attributed to witches? ....., ....., .....
- What moral attributes do witches have? ....., ....., ....., ....., .....
- What are witches accused of practicing? ....., .....
- How do witches use technology? .....
- What is so intense among them?.....

**Fill in with the nouns and adjectives formed from the following verbs:**

<b>Verb</b>	<b>Noun</b>	<b>Adjective</b>
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Judge		
Bewitch		
Burn		
Punish		
Hunt		
Tie		
Prevail		
Live		
Blow		
Revenge		
Blame		
Accuse		
Expel		
Practice		
Build		
Advertise		
Attract		
Charge		
Compete		

**Turn the following sentences negative:**

- Only the Court of Salem judged witchcraft cases.
- The Great Hunt was a harsh period in European history.
- Traditional healers have held high prestige in Africa.
- The villagers blamed fate and black magic.
- Witch hunts still claim many lives throughout the world.
- Many victims had been accused by their families and were then punished by villagers.
- They are either expelled or become victims of vengeance.
- Both women and men are accused of witchcraft.
- He is thought to practice cannibalism.
- The new trend followed by witches is to build their own website.
- Witches charge for their services.