

# Follow, Follow, Follow: Conforming to Society

## Task 2: Exploring Identity

### Activity 2: Exploring Identity Through Themes in Novels

#### Directions:

You will read the excerpt from the novel below. As you read, pay attention to vocabulary and context clues, literary devices such as similes and metaphors, and the author's purpose in conveying the theme of conformity.

Read the following excerpt:

- The Witch of Blackbird Pond by Elizabeth George Speare

*“Beside the plain blue homespun and white linen which **modestly** clothed aunt Rachel and Judith, Kit’s flowered silk gave her the look of some vivid, tropical bird lighted by mistake on a strange shore. The modish bonnet with curling white feathers seemed to her uncle a crowning affront.”*

1. Define the word modestly as used in the passage above.

Answers may vary slightly

Ex: plainly, conservatively

2. Identify the metaphor used in the passage above to describe Kit’s clothing.

*“Kit’s flowered silk gave her the look of some vivid, tropical bird. . .”*

3. Provide an example of both a synonym and an antonym for the word venomous as used in this sentence.

*“A little distance away she glimpsed Goodwife Cruff, surrounded by a close huddle of whispering women, all darting **venomous** glances in Kit’s direction.”*

Synonym

Antonym

Mean, poisonous, evil, toxic

Good, friendly, benevolent, nice

4. Throughout the entire text, what is the author's purpose and how does it support the theme of conformity?	
Identify the author's purpose.	In 1-2 sentences, explain how the purpose supports the theme.
Answers will vary. Ex: The author's purpose is to explain how people treat other people poorly when they differ from the norm.	The theme of this chapter of the novel illustrates the dangers of a society that fails to value differences and only expects conformity, punishing those who do not conform.