

“How to Spot a Witch” by Adam Goodheart

Answer these questions on a separate sheet of paper, please! ☺ You do not have to write the question, but do write out the answer.

**1. Which of the following claims could be made about the various ways witch hunters looked for witches?**

- a. They took the age of a person into consideration when looking for a witch.
- b. They took the appearance of a person into consideration when looking for a witch.
- c. They took the hair/eye color of a person into consideration when looking for a witch.
- d. They took the language spoken by the person into consideration when looking for a witch.

**2. Choose the evidence below that best proves the claim you chose in number 1.**

- a. “Perhaps the reason witch-hunting has gotten a bad name is that some practitioners used rather crude methods to separate the guilty from the innocent.”
- b. “Other popular tests include weighing the suspect against a very heavy Bible.”
- c. “Sexism was regrettably widespread among Gaule’s colleagues, even though both men and women could be witches.”
- d. “John Gaule recorded that ‘every old woman with a wrinkled face, a furr’d brow, a hairy lip, a gobber tooth, a squint eye, a squeaking voice or a scolding tongue’ is not only suspected, but pronounced for a witch.”

**3. Which of the following claims could be made about the Devil’s marks?**

- a. Witches had teats left behind by the Devil.
- b. Witches had a familiar spirit.
- c. Each witch had an imp supplied to them by the Devil.
- d. The Malleus Maleficarum was a book about witch-hunting.

**4. Choose the evidence below that best proves the claim you chose in number 3.**

- a. “One of the most devious ways to foil witches is to catch them with their familiars.”
- b. “A wax medallion containing a bit of salt blessed on Palm Sunday, worn around the neck, will defend you from Satan’s wiles (tricks).”
- c. “These are the spots where Satan brands his followers to seal their pact with him.”
- d. Therefore, they pricked any suspicious marks with a long silver pin.”

**5. Which of the following quotes proves the following claim?**

“Over time, a considerable body of folklore developed about how to identify witches.”

Pick all that apply!

- a. “Perhaps the reason witch-hunting has gotten a bad name is that some practitioners used rather crude methods to separate the guilty from the innocent.”
- b. “Other popular tests include weighing the suspect against a very heavy Bible.”
- c. “Sexism was regrettably widespread among Gaule’s colleagues, even though both men and women could be witches.”
- d. “John Gaule recorded that ‘every old woman with a wrinkled face, a furr’d brow, a hairy lip, a gobber tooth, a squint eye, a squeaking voice or a scolding tongue’ is not only suspected, but pronounced for a witch.”
- e. “A wax medallion containing a bit of salt blessed on Palm Sunday, worn around the neck, will defend you from Satan’s wiles (tricks).”
- f. “Otherwise, you yourself could end up on the wrong end of a witch hunt.”
- g. “Europe’s most successful witch hunters were expert at framing questions of the when-did-you-stop-beating-your-wife sort.”

**6. Read the following sentence and then define the underlined word.**

“One problem: In the vermin-ridden 17<sup>th</sup> century, such blemishes were hardly uncommon. So the witch hunters devised an ingenious solution.”

What does the word ingenious mean?

- a. silly
- b. clever
- c. weak
- d. wise

**7. Read the following sentence and then define the underlined word.**

“According to the *Molleus Maleficarum*, a comprehensive witch-hunting guide published in 1486, judges at witchcraft trials should take precautions against being bewitched by the accused.”

What does the word precaution mean?

- a. dangerous measures   b. baking measures   c. strange measures   d. safe measures

**8. Choose the evidence below that best proves the claim you chose in number 7.**

- a. “Therefore, when you have a suspect in prison, drill a peephole in the cell door and keep a close watch.”
- b. “Even stubborn suspects will often collapse under skillful interrogation.”
- c. “A wax medallion containing a bit of salt blessed on Palm Sunday, worn around the neck, will defend you from Satan’s wiles (tricks).”
- d. “Other popular tests include weighing the suspect against a very heavy Bible.”

**9. What can you infer from your reading of this text with regards to the belief in witchcraft?**

**10. What was the author’s main point and the tone of this article? Explain in at least 2 complete sentences?**