

Passages Press



Bear Hunt: Voting on Question #1

By Kelsey Turner
Portland, ME

Facts differ from opinion. Facts are provable, true information about things, and opinion is just what you think or feel about something. One example of using both these things to argue a position is the ads and campaign material for Question #1 on the Maine ballot this November 4th. The question is, “Do you want to ban the use of bait, dogs or traps in bear hunting except to protect property, public safety, or for research?”

Fairbearhunt.com is a website that talks about both sides of the issue. There were both facts and opinions mixed in with their writing. One writer supportive of Question #1 points out the bear problem at Yellowstone National Park, saying that when they took away the garbage bins, put in bear-proof trash cans, and told people to stop feeding the bears, the bear problem went away. After he wrote that **fact**, he threw in an opinion, and said “You’d be lucky to see a bear in Yellowstone now.” A writer that opposes Question #1 wrote “Maine’s black bear population has increased by 30 percent since the last effort to ban baiting bears in 2004, because of the millions of pounds of junk food dumped in the Maine woods every year.” (Which I think is based on facts.) I’ve also seen some commercials about the

question. Both commercials mix fact and opinion to make their arguments.

I watched a commercial for voting **yes** to ban baiting and trapping bears that featured “lifelong Maine hunters” who explained why they think we should vote yes. I think they chose lifelong Maine hunters so that people will be able to relate to them, since they also grew up in Maine, and they have been hunting their whole lives so why should we question them?

Here are the facts the Vote Yes side presented:

- Since 2001, Maine’s bear population has grown from 18,000 to about 30,000.
- Baiting isn’t scientifically indefensible.
- Maine is the only state in the US that allows the baiting, hunting, and trapping of bears.
- Baiting is leaving human food out to lure a bear into a trap.
- 7 million pounds of junk food are put in Maine’s woods every year.
- It’s against the law to bait deer.
- If bears get used to people food they will hunt less for their own food.
- Snare traps leave bears in excruciating pain for hours.

Here are the opinions:

- One man said people use human food to bait bears to make it easy for someone from out of state to be able to say that they caught a bear in Maine.
- We are seeing more bears in backyards, cities, and towns and a good way to stop that is to stop feeding them human food.
- If hunting is for sport, it's supposed to be challenging.
- These are cruel and unsporting acts.



I watched a commercial where a Maine game warden was speaking about why he opposes Question #1. Again, if a Maine game warden is telling us these things, why should we question him? He, of all people, should know what he's talking about when it comes to hunting. Also, he is sitting in a field with a pretty black lab, so he must be a good person, right?

Here are the facts the Vote No side presented:

- It takes a hunter an average of 15 days to harvest a bear in Maine.
- It is a fact that these are the rules for bear hunting. It is not a fact that absolutely everyone follows these rules:
- Bait is required to be at least 1/2 a mile from a dwelling.
- Bait hunting is limited to a 4-week season.
- Bait must be removed within 10 days after season.
- Bait cannot be placed on land without landowners' consent.
- You cannot hunt bears at night.
- Decrease in hunting will increase the bear population.
- Bear population will grow.

Here are his opinions:

- Bear hunting is not easy.
- Bear hunting keeps bears at a manageable level.
- We will see more bears in backyards
- "All Maine game wardens oppose question one."

Now - my opinion. I think it's cruel and unfair to lure bears in with human food just to kill them. What if a mother bear went in to get food and was killed and couldn't get back to her cubs? If people are hunting for sport, it should be a challenge. Trapping an animal in a painful trap to say that you hunted a bear is just cruel and immoral. I understand that we can't have bears walking around in people's yards where children might be playing. But people have been baiting and trapping bears for years and the bear population has grown! I don't think public safety has anything to do with why people want to keep baiting and trapping bears.

On November 4th I will be voting Yes on Question #1 because I believe it's cruel what they're doing to the animals.

Commercials can be found at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZAhAZBl_6hg
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7xWOboTN8Eo>



The Mom & Tot Shop

By McKayla Olsen
Waldoboro, ME

Having Hailee has changed the way I look at lots of things. I read the ingredients of things that I put on her skin, and most of the time I'm baffled at how many things are just pure chemicals. I decided to make sure that my daughter had only products that were safe for her sensitive skin. I started to do research to find out how to make products safe for babies. I gathered recipes and supplies, and I created my own web store. I made lotions and scrubs and put them up for sale. It feels nice to take time to do something creative and it was fun!

Some frustrations I've had with my store is balancing my other responsibilities with Hailee, and my work schedule, while trying to design the website. It took a lot of time and effort and sometimes it got frustrating to figure out the coding, how to make everything look professional, and how to get traffic onto the site. Having to build the whole website by myself led me to lose some interest. I started to look for a better way to continue with my shop and found 'Wix'. 'Wix' is a free website that allows you to have an online shop and they even set everything up for you. After a few hours my shop was up and running!

To make the lotions I had to shop for beeswax, coconut oil and other organic products safe for baby's skin. I experimented with scents to find which one I liked best and lavender seemed to be the most popular. I make lotions by the batch and put them in small jars, with my

homemade labels! By making this website I learned that I am actually a creative person if take the time to do it and I'm really happy that I chose to make my own little online business! Our website is called The Mom and Tot Shop and our link is:

<http://mckaylajadee.wix.com/themomandtoshop>

Eureka!

By Rebecca Doyle
Rockland, ME

I had heard that the man who figured out how to calculate volume was in his bathtub and shouted "Eureka!" when he found it out. That man's name was Archimedes – but in fact he did *not* find out the formula for volume- he found the formula for buoyancy of liquids. He was a Greek philosopher and mathematician who lived over 2,200 years ago.



"The story handed down through the generations is that Hiero, a king of the Greek city of Syracuse, gave a goldsmith a lump of gold and told him to make a royal crown. When the goldsmith brought the crown to the king, it weighed the same as the lump of gold Hiero had given to him. King Hiero was not certain, but he suspected that the goldsmith had kept some of the gold for himself and had mixed silver with the rest of it

to make the crown heavy. That is when Hiero called Archimedes and asked him to discover the truth, but without melting the crown down. Archimedes knew this would be a difficult problem to solve, but the answer came suddenly! One day as Archimedes was lowering himself into the bath, he noticed that some water flowed over the sides of the tub. It is said that he became so excited that he ran out of the bath house through the streets, yelling, "Eureka! Eureka!" In Greek it meant, "I found it! I found it!"



Archimedes then experimented by taking a lump of gold and silver, both weighing the same as the crown (the silver lump being larger than the gold to equal the weight of the crown). He put each lump into separate vessels full of water, thus figuring out that the object placed in the vessel with the water would push out as much water as it's own volume or buoyancy. With that logic he formed a hypothesis - if the crown were made of pure gold, then it would push out as much water as the gold lump.

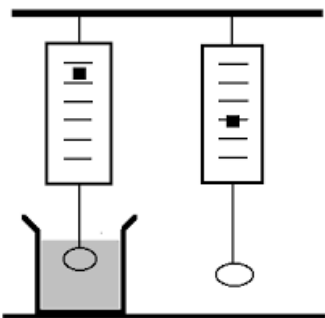
However, Archimedes was incorrect. The crown actually made more water overflow than the lump of gold did. This was because the goldsmith was dishonest - he had added silver to the lining of the crown to make it bulkier. (It was all through math that this criminal was imprisoned!).

Female Sexuality

By Kelsey Saucier
Swanville, ME

I have gone through puberty and pregnancy already in my life so I know about sexuality mostly from experience. When kids are growing into adults there are a lot of different changes that happen both physically and emotionally. This is called puberty. In girls this happens between the ages of eight and thirteen. The physical changes include a more womanly body shape, growth of body hair in different areas, breast development and menstrual cycles - also known as "periods". Boys start puberty between ages nine and fourteen. Physically they get taller, their shoulders and chest broaden, the sound of their voice changes, growth of the penis and testicles begins, hair growth in the groin area as well as facial, underarms and legs, and erections and ejaculations start. Emotionally both girls and boys become more moody, have strong feelings and become more sensitive and self-conscious. Their decision-making is quick and without much thinking before doing.

Archimedes' Principle



Archimedes finally proved a law that could be used for things that float *and* things that sink. Any object that floats will displace it's own weight of water, and any object that sinks will displace an amount of water equal to it's own volume.

Pregnancy is another stage in women's lives that includes physical and emotional changes. The most common physical changes for a woman to have during pregnancy are body weight and shape change, the menstrual cycles stops until the pregnancy is over, breasts will increase in size and can become painful. Inside the body also changes. Body parts will move to fit around the fetus, and your blood capacity increases. Your mood changes quickly and depression can happen.

Another cycle in life for a woman is menopause. Some of the physical changes during this stage would be that menstrual cycles are random until they eventually stop for good, you will get hot flashes, have difficulty sleeping, vaginal dryness and lack of motivation. Emotionally you can feel irritable, sad, have mood swings, anxiety, difficulty concentrating, fatigue and tension. Those are all examples of the different changes in life that women go through.

Having someone by your side makes these different times in life a lot easier, but it is also important that the person understands and cares about the situation. I can personally say that I have someone that has and will be there for me during these times in my life. I can communicate to my partner very easily about these things because we have been together long enough and we have been close enough for me to be comfortable with him and he listens to me and tries his best to help when he can, and when he can't he at least makes me comfortable and relaxed. I can talk to him about anything. The only thing that makes it hard is when something happens that we don't know what it is or why it is happening.

When I was pregnant different parts of my breast were hard and hurt really bad. I went to

the doctor and asked about it and he told me that it was from some of the breast milk trying to form and it was not able to come out yet so it started to harden which caused the pain. So he gave me some tips on how to help with it. They included taking a warm shower or using a heating pad. That let the breasts warm up and helped loosen them up.

I know that my kids are going to go through it too, so I can expect them to be curious at times, nervous and even scared. I am going to keep reminding them that it is ok to ask me anything they want and I am there to help them when they need it. I will answer their questions to the best of my knowledge, but I am going to rely on doctors to help with the questions that I'm not sure of or don't know the answers to. I will help my kids get through these times as best as I can and reassure them that everything is ok and it happens to everyone, there is nothing to worry about, and I am here for them.

If you need some tips on how to talk to your child about sexuality go to: www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au or www.healthychildren.org.



Drawings by Matthew Pearson - www.matthewpearson.deviantart.com and Julia Rho - www.etsy.com/shop/ArtandSpirits

My Life Bio

By Brittany Wescott
Baring, ME

Over the years I have had many obstacles to overcome. I have also learned a lot of things on my own because that is basically the only choice I've had. As a young teen I had to do a lot of things on my own because my mother wasn't there for me as much I needed her to be. Also, my grandmother is the one who raised me and made sure I never went without even though that was my mother's job. My grandmother took full control of the situation, which I am very grateful for.

In my young teens years I was very rebellious and that is what got me in trouble a lot of the time in high school. After I got terminated from school I had later realized getting in trouble gets you nowhere, which is why I decided to go to Job Core. I thought that Job Core would get me back on track but my roommate and I had a conflict that kept me from getting my certification for CNA. I realize now that what happened to me and my roommate wasn't worth not getting my CNA certification for.

When I came back home to live with my mom, I met a guy name Jeremy and we hung out for a while and got to know each other and decided we were good for each other. A couple of months later I wasn't feeling good and really wondered what was going on with all these changes that were going on with my body, so I decided to take a pregnancy test and I found out that I was pregnant.

The moment I found out that I was having a child I was an emotional wreck. I waited a week to tell my boyfriend Jeremy, because I was so shaken up and confused about what to do and



who to tell. After I told Jeremy, he was upset with me for not telling him. I told him that at the time I didn't know what to do. After we figured things out we decided we were going to keep the baby and try to make it work as a family. For nine months I went to so many appointments. On the fifth month we found out that we were having a little baby boy. I was very excited and couldn't wait to pick out a name. We decided that we would name him Mikah Jeffrey Farley. I couldn't wait for him to arrive because of all the pain I was in. On March 4th, 2011 I went into labor for nine painful hours. Then they decided to give me a C-section because he was stuck on my pelvic bones. After the c section and Mikah Jeffery had entered the world and I was so happy to be done with all the pain. When we were released from the hospital I finally got some sleep. I had a lot of help from my grandparents when Mikah first came home. It was a big relief that someone was there to help me.

Three weeks after I had Mikah, Jeremy, the father had got arrested and had to go serve his time, so I was all by myself and was really stressed out due to just having him and then Jeremy going to jail and not being there for Mikah. I was hoping that things would change but they just got worse and he was getting in trouble all the time, which left me to fend for myself and my son. It really got to me at times that I was the only one there for Mikah, and the

only one that could support him. As Mikah grew older I learned how to do a lot of things on my own that I never thought I could, and that alone made me a stronger person for my son to look up to. After Mikah was about one I decided that I was going to fill out an application for the apartments in Eastport, and later got a call and they said that I was able to move into my apartment in two weeks. I was relieved to hear the good news, knowing that my son and I would have our own place to live and grow in. I was there for about a year and half, and while I was there I was doing my schooling and raising my son at the same time - which was difficult at times but I know that's what's best for me and my son.



Mikah is two years old now and his father still isn't there for him like he should be, which is why I know that finishing my schooling and earning a college degree is my best choice, because I know that I am going to be raising my son by myself and I need to be able to support the both of us and make sure that he has everything he needs. I now know that I need to get a job and finish my schooling. I am confident in the long run that I will be able to better my son and myself as well. I cannot wait to succeed my goals so that I am living in my own place not worrying about money and that I have a car to get me and my son around and to know that I don't have to depend on anyone but myself because you learn that you can't depend on really anyone in life.

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You See That Girl

By Selaina Leigh
Washington, ME

You see that girl,
She looks so happy.

You see the sun?

It's 80 degrees
out.

Why is she
wearing jeans
and sweater?

You see that
girl?

What a beautiful smile.

Why don't you sit down?

And talk to her for a while.

Maybe then you will understand.

"Of course I'm fine," she will say.

Look in her eyes.

What do you see?

Look deep in her eyes.

Maybe you'll see.

Her eyes are so empty.

She has become so numb.

You see that sweater?

Under the sleeves are scarlet red lines.

You see those jeans?

It's the same underneath.

You see that smile?

It tells a thousand lies.

You see that girl?

That girl is me.



A Thousand Needs

By Rebecca Doyle
Rockland, ME

As everyone knows, infants have a thousand needs. Just like dogs & cats; infants are needy creatures. As a mother, it's something that I am created to do. Something that I crave to do. So, lets start with the basics.

"Feed me! Feed me! Feed me!" Every mom knows that special cry. You know, the one that starts with the 'n' sound. Like they're suctioning their tongue to the roof of their mouth and bellowing out at the same time. For some moms, that means to scurry to the kitchen to put together a bottle for their baby, other moms will pump milk as quickly as possible to feed their baby. Personally, I think I chose the simple route. To be very frank, pick up my daughter and give her the boob. So, her biggest and most constant need is feeding and I do so by breastfeeding her.

Now, let's get into the part that every dad detests. You guessed it: Diapers. Green poo, brown poo, yellow, seedy, runny. Poop soup, as I call it. If you haven't raised an infant, you are probably pretty disgusted right now. If you have, you're probably smiling. I would have to say that Ellie goes through 8-10 diapers a day. She poops 2-3 times a day, but once in a while will skip a day or two of pooping (yes, on those days her dad leaps for joy). As for peeing, that seems to happen about 2 or 3 seconds after I change her diaper. Her diaper is almost constantly wet, in my observation.

Third - attention. My daughter has entered the stage where she needs to be seen, heard, acknowledged at every waking moment. She has stopped crying to wake me up in the mornings, but now instead she's taken to screeching at the top of her lungs. It's not a

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mad screech, but one that says "Pay attention to me!". Whenever my daughter is awake, she needs for me to talk to her or play with her most of the time. Sometimes she will entertain herself with a toy or two for a few minutes, but she still prefers to be held or talked to.

Of course, those three things are not all that my daughter needs. She needs to be bathed, clothed, taken to the doctor's for check ups, and many other things. But those are the basic three needs that she requires me to accomplish most often.

Home to Me

By Autumn Larronda
St. George, ME

My children running playing on the swing
Singing, pots and pans banging
Tractors beeping
Moldy, damp basement
hot burning woodstove
fresh ocean breeze blended with nearby cow
smell
some meals quick and sloppy
others filled with thoughtfulness and love
cold wood floors
fuzzy wood rugs covered with dog fur
soft yogurt-covered baby skin
proud, delighted
longing for more time and joy it's to hold
amazed
ashamed of the mess
amazed
my life fun filled, relaxed, chaotic
Home.

A Safe Home

By Barbara Turner

Lewiston, ME

When I was little I lived in Livermore falls Maine. I lived there until I was 13 years old with both my mother and father. Livermore Falls is a small town so everyone knows everybody. I had always thought that Livermore Falls was a safe town until someone tried to break into our house one night and my mom caught them in the act. Before then I loved the town and felt safe. After that, nothing made me feel safe living there other than knowing all the people in town. We lived in a neighborhood where people were angry drunks. They were nice to the people that lived in the area and to their families but other than that they were not nice people. The other thing, besides the break in, that made me feel unsafe was the drugs there. There was a lot of drug dealing in that part of town because it was far away from the police station, so I knew at any time someone could get hurt. I learned young what drugs and alcohol can do to someone or what they can cause someone to do.

In order to make me and my family feel safe I always have my doors and windows locked if I am not in that room or am able to hear if someone was going to come in. I make sure that if I feel unsafe I have my phone in my hands so I can call for help if I need to. I know what a drug deal looks like so if I see one, which I always do because its Lewiston, I either move away from the scene as fast a possible or go inside a store. I don't like to see that stuff and I don't want my son around it.

Now that I have my own apartment that I clean and that I take care of I try to make sure that it is baby safe and happy. I never leave anything unsafe laying around and always do checks around the house to make sure there is nothing

that my son could get hurt by. I have cleaned out all Ryan's little toys so he doesn't accidentally give one to his sister to have.

Nate is 22 and I am 18 and I think that we are very organized people. I hate a messy house or something not being done when I ask for it to be done. If it's not done the right way or not done when I say it needs to be done then I stop doing what I am doing to get it done. My son Ryan has to clean his room if he wants to go anywhere or if a friend comes over. Nate is not home during the day during the week so when he does get home the only thing that he needs to do so is just hang his jacket up in the closet. When he eats I normally take care of his plate because he has been on his feet all day. After mealtime Ryan takes care of his dishes and any trash. We all work together when we do the big clean on the weekend and we all do different rooms. We all pick up stuff even if it's not ours and help each other out and always try to pick up what we take out. We are a very well communicating family and that's what I love the most.



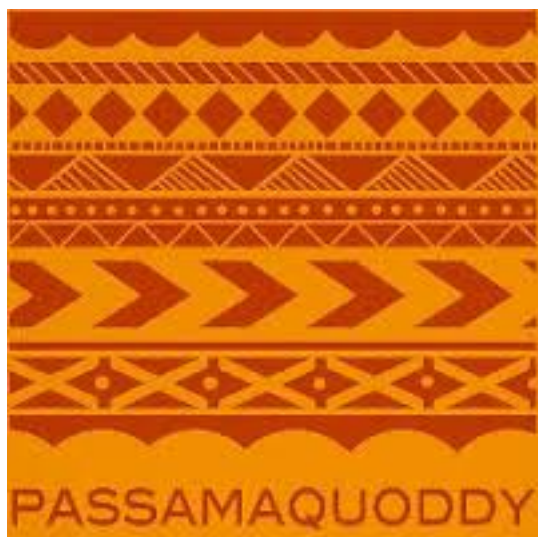
credit: Ann Taintor

Native American Ways

By Courteney Mosher
Calais, ME

The arrival of Europeans created a huge change in the Native American culture. The first Europeans that the Indians met were missionaries who looked upon the Native American spiritual practices and labeled them as worthless superstition that were inspired by the Christian devil. These missionaries decided to convert the Native Americans to Christianity. As more Europeans flooded North America, the US and Canadian governments created policies that forced Natives onto reservations. They also encouraged them to become more assimilated into the culture. This affected their spiritual traditions, and in 1882 the U.S. Federal Government started to work towards banning all Native American religious rights impacting their rite to perform their ceremonies.

Native American history is very important. They are still losing their way because Americans are still pushing their way of life on the Native Americans. The Native Americans should have been able to live how



they were used to even after the Europeans had settled in America. The schools should show more about the Native American history rather than just showing a little. When my son gets older I am going to teach him about his language, his history and his culture. I am going to teach him, and so will his father, his grandfather, and his 'oakmie', which means 'grandmother' in Passamaquoddy. We speak some Passamaquoddy words to him now, and so do his grandfather, oakmie, uncles, aunts, and other family. He will know his ancestral background. I will never keep him from that. No one will.

Passamaquoddy words:

- **Upokkut** - Overcoat
- **Acesson** - It changes abruptly
- **Macehewiw** - It leaves
- **Mahkut** - Dress
- **Mahal** - s/he eats
- **Maleyu** - s/he is lazy
- **Namut** - nevermind/no
- **Doz** - girl you have respect for/care about
- **Quis** - guy you have respect for/care about
- **Mushagetious** - get the hell out of my house

Perfect Parenting?

By Zoe Catharine Baxter

Recently I read an article on the Huffington Post that said a teacher in Belgium keeps his students quiet in class by threatening to reveal the next in line to die in the popular TV series "Game of Thrones." Every time one of his students disrupts the class by being too loud he would write the name of the next dead character on the board. One of his students blogged about this and said how he thought his teacher was an absolute genius. After reading this article it sparked something inside my mind that made me ask myself a ton of questions. And not necessarily having to do with the article itself, but of how he punished his students in a way that he knew would make them stop doing the thing that caused the punishment in the first place.

It made me start to wonder what parenting methods and discipline strategies I will have as a mother. This is one of the only things I haven't yet thought about for hours on end that has to do with parenting, I haven't searched the crevasses of my brain for answers on the topic. It is one thing that I haven't stayed up for hours to research and learn more about... until now of course! I haven't gotten more than a couple hours of sleep for the past few days because my brain was too occupied with thinking about EVERY SINGLE parenting skill you would or would not want to have as a parent. I have thought about it and realized things I do and don't want to do as a mother. And I have come to the grand conclusion that you never can fully prepare yourself for the challenges of becoming a parent and you will never be able to fully choose what parenting skills you do and don't have. I think you can try to develop "the perfect" method of parenting and that you can

try to follow this path but no one will ever actually succeed in doing so because they haven't experienced parenting first hand.

I believe that a large portion of parenting skills will come naturally and that as a parent when a situation arises I will know exactly what to do to fix it. With that being said, I also know there are things that I will try not to do as a parent that I have learned aren't necessarily the best option for a parent. But that is WAY too big of a subject matter to get into here! I would also like to add as a side note that overall I have decided that this article is a message sent by the devil to torture me inside for nearly three days and get absolutely NO sleep at all!

Article can be found at:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/03/25/teacher-spoil-game-of-thrones_n_5027418.html



The Business of Being Born

Reviewed by Carolynne Barter

Portland, ME

This film is about midwifery in New York City. They interview doctors and midwives and include the public's opinion on the matter as well. The midwives, who are all in New York City, explain their practice and what they do. It highlights the positive outcomes of having a homebirth, and the difficulties of having a hospital birth. There are videos of home births to know what actually happens.

After watching this film, I got more of an understanding about why it's good to choose a midwife. I'm now more aware that all those drugs, numbing agents, and surgeries aren't as necessary as everyone makes them out to be. It feels like birth is over-traumatized. It shouldn't be scary and overwhelming - it should be about the mother and her comfort - she shouldn't be on a time frame.

My ideas about doctors changed a lot from watching this film. I know now that I shouldn't let them take control over my birth, and that I shouldn't let them overwhelm me. I should stress what I really want to happen, and avoid certain things unless there is an emergency.

My favorite part in the film was when they talked about the C-section rate. When they talked about how high it's gotten, and how sometimes it's not as necessary as the doctor's make it to be. And how risky it really is. I'm glad I had the opportunity to learn about it, because they are right when they say that the public doesn't have any idea.

I would recommend this film because it's so much information from actual medical professionals. Although they didn't mention any positive outcomes of hospital delivery, it was just negative and I think that it's really important to look at both sides to really decide what you want. Nevertheless it's very interesting and good preparation for any expecting mother.

Watch the movie on YouTube at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KvljyvU_ZGE



“Witch Hunt”

Reviewed by Lacey Phinney

Lubec, ME

I watched a documentary on the Salem witch hunt. In 1692 in Salem, Massachusetts, accusations of witchcraft were abundant and handled very harshly. Practicing witchcraft was against the law, and considered a sin. All it took was someone accusing you of being a witch and you were arrested and a trial was held. A lot of people took advantage of this fact, and used it to settle old grudges. The accusations seemed to have started with a minister named Samuel Parris.

The minister's daughter and niece began having fits and appeared to have been bitten and pinched by an invisible being. Doctors were called in to diagnose the girls. After seeing the two girls a local doctor diagnosed witchcraft. The minister was frantic trying to find a cure for this. Seeing how upset he was, his servant Tituba used an old folklore recipe. She baked a cake made with urine and fed it to

a dog, which was then supposed to take them to the witch. Upon finding out what Tituba had done the minister became furious. He said that Tituba had used the devil's work, to fight off the devil. Then the two girls were asked who had bewitched them, and they accused Tituba

A trial was held, and out of fear or desperation Tituba confessed to having seen a man who asked her to serve him. She said the man wore all black, and sometimes appeared to her as a hog or dog. She said she refused to help him, but it was already too late. The town had what they considered a confession. Tituba also accused four other women, and said she had seen their names in the man's book as well. The town went into a state of panic, and the witch-hunt began.

The witch-hunts in Salem were fueled by hate and rumor and many people died in cruel ways. The man that started it all said that there was no way a witch could recite the Lord's Prayer. Some people were still cruelly killed AFTER they had said the Lord's Prayer. So I wonder why the person was still killed after they said it.

Before I saw the movie I wondered if there really were witches in Salem, but now I think that maybe they didn't really kill any witches, just innocent people. The women that they frowned upon – sinners - and who were then in the public eye because of it, could be easily accused of being a witch. The Puritans thought *anyone* who sinned could be a witch. Today when someone says something is a 'witch hunt', they mean hunting down people and accusing them of something whether or not there is real proof.

Everything Changes

Everything's falling....
the leaves are falling to the ground.

It's getting colder, and...
the frost in the roads is making bumps in more places.

There are not as many birds around anymore,
and there are a lot more grasshoppers.

I picked a purple aster.



By Deidre Pushard
Richmond, ME