00006, Culture anglaise et littérature

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**The Pendle Witch Trial summary**

In the documentary “The Pendle Witch Child” produced by Timeline, the story of the Pendle Witch trial is explained. In the 17th century, in England, there was a lot of witch trials. Because of the uprising wave of Protestantism, the Catholic Church was more than ever scared of evil. King James, reigning at the time, was terrified of being murdered and created many conspiracies of the same origin. He then wrote a book called *Demonology* that incited the British to hunt and kill witches. They were believed to be harmful and deadly, mostly because they were supposedly trying to kill the king and were betraying religion. This documentary proceeds to narrate one of the most disturbing trial of witchcraft in England’s history. After being suspected of witchery, 12 members of the Device family and their friends were arrested and brought to trial. Jennet Device, a 9 year old girl, was brought to the stand to testify against her own family. The little girl was able to identify members, recite prayers she heard from her family and unveil places where were hidden compromising elements such as human teeth and clay figurines. Many people think she was bullied into testifying because her statements sentenced 10 people to be hung. By testifying, Jennet gave magistrates in England and in the United States, a precedent to seek the testimony of children in trials of witchcraft, which was a turning point in most of the Salem witchcraft trials. Her words brought on the death of many people without her even being aware of it.