

# BLOOD ON THE RIVER BOOK DISCUSSION

AN OPEN BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP FOR THE BOOK BLOOD ON THE RIVER:  
JAMES TOWN 1607 BY ELISA CARBONE, PUBLISHED BY VIKING JUVENILE,  
2006. "I GREW UP IN VIRGINIA, AND SO I STUDIED THE JAMESTOWN STORY  
EVERY TIME WE COVERED STATE HISTORY... I THOUGHT, THAT OLD STORY?  
JOHN SMITH AND POCAHONTAS AGAIN? BOOOOOORING!" - ELISA CARBONE IN  
THE AUTHOR'S NOTE, P. 225. BLOOD ON THE RIVER MAKES JAMESTOWN COME  
ALIVE!

SATURDAY, JUNE 30, 2007

## Favorite Characters???

What is your favorite character in this book?

POSTED BY YOUTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT 3:27 PM 0 COMMENTS



TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 2007

## Character Development: Samuel Collier

Samuel Collier, a young orphan boy from the streets of London who eventually becomes a serving boy for Captain John Smith, is the main character in this book. His transformation from street urchin to indentured servant to free landholder is indicative of the possibilities available in this New World. Why do you think Elisa Carbone uses Samuel Collier as the main character of the book rather using a more major figure such as Captain John Smith, Reverend Hunt, Pocahontas or Powhatan? What are the advantages of using a boy for this character?

POSTED BY YOUTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT 4:45 PM 0 COMMENTS

## Use of Primary Sources

Documents from Jamestown show that Samuel Collier actually

BLOOD ON THE RIVER:  
JAMES TOWN 1607

\*Blog is available for comments by patrons from June 9 - August 4, 2007 through the Bedford Public Library System home website. \*Comments will be posted after content is review by a Youth Services Librarian.

BEDFORD PUBLIC  
LIBRARY SYSTEM



by Elisa Carbone

CHECK OUT THESE BOOKS FOR MORE INFORMATION ON JAMESTOWN

James Towne : Struggle for Survival

Jamestown : The First English Colony

Jamestown, Virginia  
New beginnings : Jamestown and the Virginia colony, 1607-1699  
The Jamestown Colony

OTHER BOOKS BY ELISA CARBONE

Last Dance on Holladay Street  
Sarah and the Naked Truth  
Stealing Freedom

did exist. He did work as a servant for Captain Smith and actually spent a winter with the Powhatan Indians. Documents from the time including journals, published accounts, inventories or ship logs are all referred to as Primary Source documents. From these documents historians are able to discover what actually happened at a certain place and time. They are often considered the best source of historical knowledge. Elisa Carbone uses these documents as the basis of her book (For more information, please refer to the author's notes at the end of the book pp. 226-229). She quotes a primary source at the beginning of each chapter that she then uses to develop her fictional story. What does this bring to the story? Why do you think she does this?

POSTED BY YOUTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT 4:45 PM 0 COMMENTS

### Plot Elements: Class Conflicts

In the book, the English settlers have difficulty living in this New World. Most of the men were selected by The Virginia Company are Gentlemen, landed gentry of a higher class who could contribute funds to the expedition. What Captain Smith needed were more workers who knew how to build and farm. He needed men who weren't afraid to get their hands dirty. The Powhatan were curious about these men who were starving but did not know how to fish, hunt or plant crops. But the Gentlemen settlers looked down on these skills as beneath their rank and dignity. Very quickly Samuel realizes that the class distinctions that make up 17th century English society do not work in this New World. Why? What problems do these settlers have that stem back to class conflicts? Could this be the basis of "the American Dream"? Go to Jamestown Settlement & Discovery Center website and check out more about what life was like at that time.

POSTED BY YOUTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT 4:44 PM 0 COMMENTS

### The Relation of Pocahontas & Captain John

### Smith



Storm Warriors  
The Pack

### BLOG ARCHIVE

- ▲ 2007 (7)
- ▲ June (7)
- ▲ Jun 30 (1)
- Favorite Characters???
- ▲ Jun 26 (6)

According to the history books, Pocahontas saved Captain John's Smith's life at the hands of her father, Chief Powhatan. She threw herself in front of the warrior's killing blow given at her father's command. According to Disney, she did this because she had fallen in love with Captain Smith and went on to have a relationship with him. How is the story in this book different? How old is Pocahontas? Is she trying to save Captain Smith's life when she falls in front of the warrior's club? What does this act represent in the relationship between the English settlers and the Powhatan tribe?

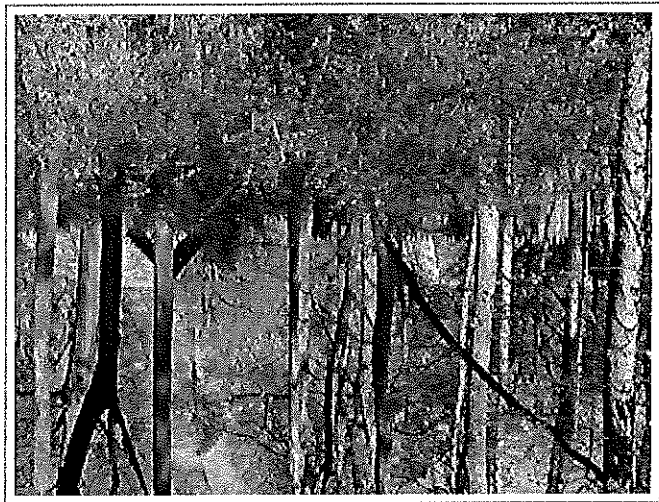
POSTED BY YOUTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT 4:42 PM 0 COMMENTS

## Tension between the Settlers and the Powhatans

Why all the tension between the English settlers and the Powhatan tribes? Of course, the English are invading the Powhatan lands, but the Powhatan seem to open to English trade and offer food and assistance to the English. Yet the two sides are continually fighting despite their overtures to friendship. Why? What seems to be getting in the way of a lasting peace? What could they both be learning from each other?

POSTED BY YOUTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT 4:36 PM 0 COMMENTS

## Reliving History



Elisa Carbone tried to recreate Samuel Collier's experiences by camping next to the recreated fort at Jamestown. "The sights and sounds that greeted me at dusk, midnight, and sunrise gave me the feel of what Samuel Collier must have experienced that May of 1607 when the colonists first landed." (See Author's Note p. 226) What things do you think she experienced camping on the beach at Jamestown were the same and what things do you think were different?

POSTED BY YOUTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT 4:34 PM 1 COMMENTS

Subscribe to: Posts (Atom)