

(from the back flap of *The Bronze Bow*)

Born and raised in Melrose, Massachusetts, Elizabeth George Speare (1908—1994) earned her bachelor's and master's degrees at Boston University, taught high school, married, and raised two children before beginning her career as a writer.

Garnering prizes and critical acclaim from the outset, Speare's work represents some of the finest historical fiction written for children and young adults. Her novels are particularly noted for the depth of their characters, authentic New England settings, intriguing plots, and accurate historical details.

In 1957 her first novel, *Calico Captive*, was an American Library Association Notable book. Published a year later, her second novel, *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*, was awarded the Newbery Medal, given annually to the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children. A second Newbery Medal was awarded to Speare in 1962 for *The Bronze Bow*, her only book set outside of New England. Though twenty years elapsed before she wrote her next novel of historical fiction for children, she again received Newbery recognition in 1984 when *The Sign of the Beaver* was named a Newbery Honor Book.

In 1989 Speare received the Laura Ingalls Wilder Award in recognition of her fine body of work, which sets the standard for historical fiction for young people.