

## 21H.931- Weekly responses

### 1. The Unredeemd Captive

What I enjoyed most about Demos' book was his portrayal of the people as fictional characters. Historical narratives lend themselves to be better understood by the fact that they are, in essence, stories. Sometimes these stories aren't interesting enough to be novels, but oftentimes when told in such a way they are much more relatable to the reader.

What was a bit frustrating was his need to include his own re-interpretation of direct quotes. John William's words were not hard to follow, and his telling of what was happening to Eunice and where did not seem wholly complicated. However, after each description, Demos includes his own version a second time. This just seems tedious and a tad annoying, and suggests to the fact that the direct quotes could mean something different than how Demos is interpreting them. Wouldn't that just undermine his own ideas?

In addition, Demos does a lot of speculation. From things as little as assuming what days mean what to the characters, from his description of the communities and how old they were, everything must be taken with a grain of salt. I personally can't imagine just how he knew that a specific town's arrangement was linear but broken near the center. Any sort of map would not indicate how the town evolved over time, or what else could have changed about it.

This story is most relatable possible due to the fact that it is set in Massachusetts, albeit 18th century Massachusetts. The town of Deerfield is here; the rivers and forests are here; and while we don't live in the time when William's family was captured any description that even hinted at the weather or natural landscape is very easy to picture.