




# Circle of Secrets

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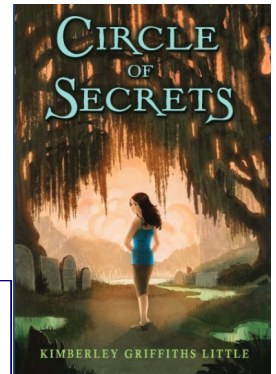
By Kimberley Griffiths Little

## MOTHER-DAUGHTER SHARING

Before the book club meets, ask each mother-daughter team to bring a charm bracelet, piece of jewelry, or some other heirloom or object that has special meaning for them. (If someone forgets to bring it, they can just share without it.)

The host states: The charm bracelet is very important to Shelby throughout this story and gives her strength. It is an heirloom passed down from Mirage's great-great-great grandmother and Mirage says that every charm tells a story.

Then, the host asks each mother-daughter team to share what they have brought and tell what special importance or meaning it has to them.



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

This story deals with parents separating. Do you think it was wrong for Mirage to leave? Why or why not? What should/could she have done differently? Not all separations lead to divorce. Discuss the events from the story that you think will lead Shelby's parents reconciling.

Shelby's feelings for her mamma progressively change throughout the story. What does Shelby learn about her mother that helps her understand why her mother left? Have you ever judged someone only to find out that everything was not as it seemed?



As Shelby watches Gwen going through with the dare on the pier twenty years ago she thinks to herself, "sometimes standing your ground isn't the smartest thing to do." Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?

The author writes that ghosts may come "because they have unfinished business" as in the case of Gwen. Do you think ghosts are real? Why or why not?

The circle is an often-used literary metaphor—circle of trust, circle of friends, etc. What were the circle of secrets in the story? How were they a circle? Is the circle metaphor used in any other ways in the story?

Contact Kimberley at [kglittle@msn.com](mailto:kglittle@msn.com) for bookmarks, postcards, and signed book plates for *Circle of Secrets* to pass out at your club night!

Check out the book trailer for *Circle of Secrets* and get the learning guide at [www.kimberleygriffithslittle.com](http://www.kimberleygriffithslittle.com).



## MAKE A CHARM BRACELET

### Materials Needed to Make One Bracelet:

(these supplies should be available at a craft store such as “Michael’s”)

6 to 8 charms of your choice

8 inch chain

Hook for the bracelet

Small rings to attach the charms (one per charm)

Needle-nose pliers



### Directions:

1. Space out the charms in the order of your choosing.
2. Using the pliers, hook a charm onto each ring and slip through a chain in the bracelet. Use the pliers to close the ring.
3. Attach the bracelet hooks to the bracelet chain spacing them evenly apart in the order chosen.

**Want a bracelet just like Shelby’s in the story?  
Go to [www.kimberleygriffithslittle.com](http://www.kimberleygriffithslittle.com) to order yours today!**



## RECIPE FOR SWEET POTATO PIE

### **INGREDIENTS:**

6 sweet potatoes	1/4 teaspoon salt
1 1/2 cups butter	1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 1/2 cups white sugar	1 teaspoon ground allspice
3 eggs	Two 9-inch unbaked pie crusts

### **DIRECTIONS:**

1. Boil (or microwave) sweet potatoes in their jackets until cooked (a thin knife should be able to go through easily).
2. Beat the eggs.
3. Put the butter and sugar in a large bowl.
4. Peel hot potatoes—with a knife cut top and peel down, removing any stringiness with the potato with the skin, cut bottoms. Place hot, peeled, potatoes on the butter in the bowl with the sugar, crush together. Add beaten eggs. Stir in spices (to taste). Pour into 2 unbaked pie crusts. Should be the consistency of pumpkin pie mix.
5. Bake at 350 degrees F (175 degrees C), for 45-55 minutes, until brown.

Want to read more? If you liked *Circle of Secrets*, check out these other great reads by Kimberley Griffiths Little: *The Healing Spell* (Scholastic Press), *The Last Snake Runner* (Random House), *Enchanted Snake Runner* (Avon Books), and *Breakaway* (Avon Books). Available through any bookstore or your favorite on-line bookseller. Scholastic books also available at Scholastic Book Fairs.

Watch for Kimberley’s new book, *When the Butterflies Came* in 2012 (Scholastic Press).

Book Trailers, Book Club Guides, and Learning guides for Kimberley’s books are available at [www.kimberleygriffithslittle.com](http://www.kimberleygriffithslittle.com)