

The Time of the Fireflies

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Welcome Activity

Prior to the book club event, ask each member to bring a picture of themselves when they were young (twelve years or younger). Display the pictures randomly on a wall or board, assigning each picture a number. After everyone arrives, play a matching game. Each person is given a piece of paper where they match the mothers' pictures to the daughters' pictures. Those who guess the most correctly could win a small prize (i.e., a bookmark).

Discussion Questions

Because this book is told in the first person, from Larissa's point of view, what the reader thinks and feels about Alyson is determined by Larissa's thoughts and feelings. If the book was written from Alyson's point of view, what do you think she would say about Larissa and how would Alyson's opinion of Larissa change as the story unfolded?

What character in the book is most like you? Which character is most like your mother/daughter? Why do you think so?

The author uses foreshadowing throughout the book that gives clues to the real identity of the caller on the phone. What are some of these clues and did you see them when you first read them, or only after the truth was revealed? Were you surprised at the true identity of the caller and if so, who did you think it was as you read the book?

One of the themes in the book is that painful experiences can leave scars, but they help make us who we are. Some scars are visible, like Larissa's scar on her face. And some scars are not visible, like the bitterness Larissa's mother has about the tragic experiences she and her family endured. Is there a time in your life where something gave you a "scar" and how did it help you become the person you are?

If you could travel back in time, what year and/or place would you go back to or who would you visit? Why?

Larissa's family heirloom was the antique doll that was passed down for generations. Do you have any family heirlooms that have been passed down? (Members of the Book Club could bring an heirloom to share, if desired.)

Do you have any interesting stories from your family history that you would like to share? What would be an interesting story from your life that you could write down for your descendants to read in the future?



Great Reviews!

"Little's strengths lie in building a strong sense of the history of a place, its inhabitants, and how one can greatly affect the other. A satisfyingly creepy mystery, wrapped up in the bonds of family."

—Publisher's Weekly

"Haunting, well-constructed tale . . . A plot filled with suspense, adventure, and mystery. Perfect choice for lovers of ghost stories, historical fiction, or just a good yarn."

—School Library Journal

"Suspense builds quickly and doesn't falter . . . Larissa's first-person narration is fresh and engaging, and the south Louisiana setting richly evoked."

—Kirkus Reviews



Make a Heart Necklace

Larissa lost the heart necklace that her Grandma Kat gave her while she was looking for her mother, then it was returned to her, surprisingly, by Dulcie's great-granddaughter, Sophie. With this activity, mothers and daughters can make matching heart necklaces of their own to wear (adapted from ehow.com).

Materials Needed:

- Fishing line (2 feet per pendant)
- 50 beads – 4 mm size
- 15 beads – 3 mm size
- Desired chain for hanging the pendant



Picture does not necessarily represent the finished product.

Directions:

Note: Keep the beading fairly tight as you make this pendant.

1. Cut 2 feet of fishing line. Place three 4 mm beads on the line and then bring them to the middle of the line.
2. Add a 4 mm bead. Bring the other end of the line through the other side of the bead. This last bead has a line coming out from its left and right sides. We will refer to the left line as Line A and the right line as Line B.
3. Add two 4 mm beads to Line A and one 3 mm bead to Line B. Bring Line A through the 3 mm bead.
4. Repeat Step 3 five times.
5. Repeat Step 3 two times using only the 4 mm beads.
6. Add two 4 mm beads to Line A and one 4 mm bead to Line B. Bring Line B through the last bead on Line A. Repeat twice.
7. Repeat Step 3 six times. On the last time, add only one 4 mm bead on the top wire and cross the top line through the top left bead in the first square you made. Tie the line tightly and cut off the excess line.
8. Slip the heart onto a silver or gold chain. It will hang slightly sideways from one of the top arches of the heart.

Frosted White Chocolate Chip Brownies

Sophie served this type of brownie to Larissa and her family when they returned the doll to her. Enjoy eating them with your book club guests (adapted from food.com).



Ingredients:

- 8 Tablespoons of unsalted butter, softened
- 2 cups sugar
- 4 ounces unsweetened chocolate, melted
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup all purpose flour
- 1 dash of salt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 8 ounces white chocolate chips
- white or chocolate frosting (whatever your preference)

High Altitude: Add 1/2 tsp baking powder when adding the flour and salt.

Directions:

1. Heat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Lightly cover the bottom of a 9x13 baking pan with non-stick cooking spray.
3. In a large bowl, beat sugar and butter together with an electric mixer.
4. Stir in melted chocolate.
5. Beat in eggs until well combined.
6. Mix in flour and salt.
7. Add vanilla.
8. Stir chips into batter with a spoon .
9. Scrape batter into a prepared pan.
10. Bake until a wooden pick inserted into the center comes out clean--approximately 25-30 minutes.
11. Cool and frost.
12. Cut into squares and serve!