

A LEARNING GUIDE FOR

Aligned with the Common Core Standards

Forbidden

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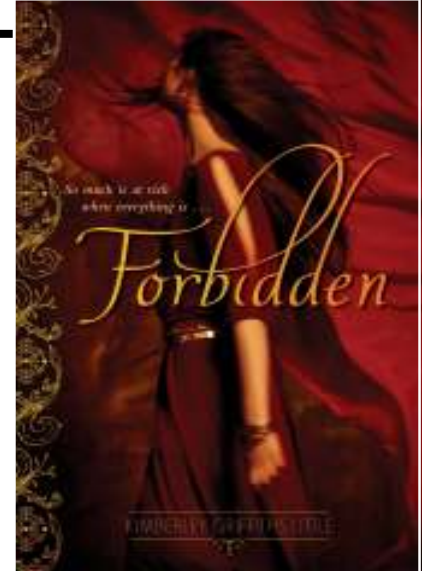
Synopsis

In the unforgiving Mesopotamian desert where Jayden's tribe lives, betrothal celebrations abound, and tonight it is Jayden's turn to be honored. But while this union with Horeb, the son of her tribe's leader, will bring a life of riches and restore her family's position within the tribe, it will come at the price of Jayden's heart.

Then a shadowy boy from the Southern Lands appears. Handsome and mysterious, Kadesh fills Jayden's heart with a passion she never knew possible. But with Horeb's increasingly violent threats haunting Jayden's every move, she knows she must find a way to escape—or die trying.

With a forbidden romance blossoming in her heart and her family's survival on the line, Jayden must embark on a deadly journey to save the ones she loves—and find a true love for herself.

Set against the brilliant backdrop of the sprawling desert, the story of Jayden and Kadesh will leave readers absolutely breathless as they defy the odds and risk it all to be together.



Fantastic Reviews!

“Lush, lyrical, romantic. *Forbidden* transports readers into a vividly imagined place and time.” —Claudia Gray, *New York Times* bestselling author.

“Deep, beautiful, and haunting. READ THIS. It's simply gorgeous.” —Martina Boone, author of *Compulsion*.

“The writing is absolutely STUNNING! I could taste the exotic foods, hear the chime of the belly dancer's belts, and experience all the beautiful sights and sounds of the desert.” —Jacqueline Garlick, author of *Lumiere*.

Pre-Reading/Prediction Questions

- ◆ What can you tell about the girl whose picture is on the cover? How old do you think she is?
- ◆ Predict: What do you think might be forbidden, and what could be at risk?
- ◆ In this story, the main character lives in the deserts of the Middle East area, known as Mesopotamia in the year 1759 B.C. Her family and tribe are nomads. What do you know about how nomads live? Would you want to live that type of a lifestyle? Why or why not?
- ◆ Start a KWL chart about Mesopotamia in the year 1759 B.C. (What Do I **K**now; What Do I **W**ant to Know; What Did I **L**earn). Fill in the K and W columns with the students. Add any important details not mentioned such as: this area is considered the “cradle of civilization”; it developed the world's first writing system; practiced organized warfare; it is located around today's countries of Iraq, Syria, Turkey, Kuwait, Egypt and Iran. As you read the book and/or at the conclusion, fill in the L column with anything the students learned about the setting.

Group Discussion/Journal Questions

The Betrothal Ceremony

Chapters 1-2 (CCR.R.1, 2, 3, 4, 9)

There are many characters introduced in these chapters. Write each name and what you know about each character in your journal. Add more details as you read the book.

Betrothal is an old word. What is a synonym used today? In the context of this story, what is expected after a betrothal ceremony?

Describe the dance performed by the women. What significance does the dance have for them?

What do you know about the women of the temple? How are they different than the women of Jayden's clan?

Mother

Chapters 3-4 (CCR.R.1, 2, 4)

What is the promise that Jayden makes to her mother about her sister Sahmri?

What dangers does Jayden's family face while traveling to the summer lands?

How does Jayden say goodbye to her mother at her grave? What is something similar people do today at funerals?

The Stranger

Chapters 5-6 (CCR.R.1, 3, 2, 4)

Write a description of Kadesh in your journal. What specific things makes him both mysterious and potentially dangerous? What does he do and say to prove that he is trustworthy?

What are henna and turmeric? Use the context to help you.

Why does Jayden's family take the injured stranger with them, rather than leaving him behind? Do you think this is the right choice? What risks does it pose?

What does Jayden find in Leila's things that troubles her? What is the conflict Jayden and Leila have because of it?

The Journey

Chapters 7-10 (CCR.R.1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 9)

What does Kadesh secretly share with Jayden? What does he urgently need to do?

Dinah seems heartless when Jayden asks her to nurse and take care of her sister, but take Dinah's point of view and write a journal entry about her possible feelings about taking care of a baby that is not hers.

Compare Jayden and Leila's strength of character by using clues in the text. Compare their beliefs and dreams for the future.

Describe what happens to the family in their travels that causes them more hardship. How does Kadesh help the situation?

Using the text, describe how Jayden and Kadesh are feeling about each other.

Arrival at the Summer Lands

Chapters 11-12 (CCR.R.1, 3, 8, 9)

What redeeming qualities does Hakak speak of about her brother Horeb as to why he will make a strong king? What qualities will make him a lesser husband? In your view, which role is more important and why?

What do you suppose Horeb's motivation is to fight Kadesh? How does Leila view the fight differently than Jayden? Why?

What does Jayden witness Leila doing that is "forbidden"?

Teaching Tip (CCR.SL.1)

Have students talk to a partner before writing their responses to the questions or sharing them orally.

Hakak's Wedding

Chapters 13-15 (CCR.R.1, 6, 8)

What does Jayden do with Kadesh that is "forbidden"?

What was Horeb's threat to Jayden?

Jayden tells her father her true feelings about Horeb? What is his response about Horeb and Abimelech, and about Kadesh? (Pull his statements directly from the text.)

Abimelech and Horeb

Chapters 16-20 (CCR.R.1, 2,)

What does Jayden use to purchase a knife in the city of Tadmur and why does she want it? Do you think she has the strength to use it if she has to? Why or why not?

Who does Esther tell Jayden at the temple? What do the women on the steps of the temple warn Jayden about?

Summarize what happens between Horeb, and Abimelech and then Horeb and Jayden in Chapters 16-18.

Even though Jayden's grandmother believes her story about the events, what knowledge does Horeb have about Jayden that he can use to keep her from being believed by Horeb's family and the rest of the tribe?

What does Horeb vow to do to Kadesh?

Tadmur and the Temple of Ashtoreth

Chapters 21-22 (CCR.R.1, 2, 9)

Why does Jayden escape to the Temple of Ashtoreth?

The temple is full of food and decadence. Leila says "...there's nothing to be afraid of. There's only loveliness and peace." So what is it about the temple that bothers Jayden?

Can something or some place seem safe and wonderful and yet be dangerous or bad for you? Give an example from today.

What does Jayden witness Leila doing at the temple that is not good for her?

How is the purpose of the dancing at the temple different than the purpose Jayden has danced for previously?

How did Kadesh end up at the temple?

Jayden is about to do more "forbidden" things. If she is caught, what may happen to her?

The Search for Sahmri

Chapters 23-24 (CCR.R.1, 2)

Summarize what is happening in the city of Mari.

Summarize what happened to Nalla, Dinah, and Sahmri since Jayden left them months before.

Do you think Jayden will ever see Sahmri again?

Horeb and Kadesh

Chapters 25-26 (CCR.R.1, 3, 8, 9)

Do you believe that Horeb had a right to kill Kadesh? Why or why not?

Why do you suppose Horeb didn't kill Jayden when he had the chance? What is he saving her for? Why does he need her?

Who does Jayden meet while in the hills outside of Mari? What do they tell her that makes her think that perhaps Kadesh survived Horeb's attack after all? (cite clues from the text).

Why doesn't Jayden return home or go back to the temple? What is she determined to do on her own?

What does Jayden do to give herself strength and wisdom?

Read the last paragraph of the novel. How has Jayden changed from the girl at the betrothal ceremony in the first chapter until now?

What do you think will happen to Jayden in the future? Will she find Kadesh and live happily ever after? What will become of Horeb, her father, Leila, and Sahmri?

Curriculum Connections

Teaching Tip

Students can feel a new connection to Forbidden by doing a project that correlates with the setting, plot or characters in the book. Have the students pick one or more of the projects below to do while they are reading the book or as a culminating project after finishing the novel. The idea is to have them choose something that interests them, and to have fun! These can be completed at school or at home. When the projects are finished, have the students share them with the class. They could also be shared at a parents' night or Open House.

ANTHROPOLOGY

(CCR.R.1, CCR.R.2, CCR.R.9, CCR.R.10, CCR.W.2, CCR.W.7)

This novel takes place in the year 1759 B.C. in the deserts of Mesopotamia. Jayden's family and tribe are nomads who are often referred to as the Bedouins. Research the lifestyle of these people and write a two-page report on your findings. One resource you can use is *BEDOUIN: Nomads of the Desert* by Alan Keohane.

HISTORY

(CCR.R.1, CCR.R.2, CCR.R.9, CCR.R.10, CCR.W.2, CCR.W.7)

A prominent part of this story is belly dancing, an ancient art that is often misunderstood. Research the history of belly dancing and write a two-page report on your findings. One resource you can use is *Serpent of the Nile*, by Wendy Buonaventura.

GEOGRAPHY

(CCR.R.1, CCR.R.7, CCR.R.9, CCR.R.10, CCR.W.2, CCR.W.7)

Research the geography of ancient Mesopotamia and create a map of the area where this book takes place. Your map can be two- or three-dimensional. It should include color, labels, important landmarks, and a map legend.

ART

(CCR.R.1, CCR.R.7)

On page 26 of the novel, there is a description of the precious jewelry that Jayden's mother gave her as a betrothal gift. Create this jewelry for yourself—either the necklace, the earrings, the bracelets, or all three if you wish. Or as an alternate activity, draw pencil sketches of what all three pieces of the jewelry look like. Share your jewelry or artwork with the class.

DANCE

(CCR.R.1, CCR.R.7)

Learn how to do a simple belly dance and perform it for the class with the accompanying music. There are multiple how-to belly dance videos available on www.youtube.com as well as music downloads at www.bellydance.com and www.last.fm/music/+free-music-downloads.

Final Activity

Teaching Tip (CCR.R.7)

Have an ancient Mesopotamia desert activity at night and invite parents. Set up open tents or canopies and string them with lights or lanterns. The evening can include listening to the music and eating the food from Mesopotamia, as well as creating a relief art project.

Enjoy a night in ancient Mesopotamia!

Listen to Mesopotamian Music!

Play music from this time period during your celebration. Free music downloads available at www.last.fm/music/+free-music-downloads. If you search under “belly dance music” on that site, you will find multiple downloads to choose from.

Eat Mesopotamian Food!

Even though Mesopotamia was in the desert, it was also between the Euphrates and Tigris rivers. Those people that stayed in one place did plant crops, and although nomads moved with the seasons for survival, they also took advantage of the geography to find their food. Some Mesopotamian foods that you could sample during the evening are dates, figs, grapes, olives, and flax seed or barley bread (recipes available on www.food.com).



Create Mesopotamian Artwork!



Much of the artwork in Mesopotamia were carvings on stone in relief. Participants can create their own relief art by drawing a **simple** picture of their favorite character or scene from the novel. Using a Styrofoam plate or tray, cut away the edges so that the Styrofoam lays flat. Using a pen or pencil, press/carve the image into the tray and then roll water-based paint onto the foam. Lay a piece of heavy white paper over the image, and use a wooden spoon to rub the image onto the paper. The final print is white against the colored paint and gives the impression of a relief sculpture.

About the Author

Kimberley Griffiths Little is the author of several critically acclaimed novels with Scholastic, Random House, and HarperCollins.

She adores Louisiana, Paris, Bulgaria, England, Scotland, Egypt, and anything old and musty with a secret story to tell.

Kimberley lives in a solar adobe house near the banks of the Rio Grande in New Mexico with her husband and their three sons.

Visit her at www.kimberleygriffithslittle.com to view book trailers filmed on location, as well as Learning Guides and Book Club Guides for all her titles.

Awards: Southwest Book Award, Whitney Award for Best Youth Novel, Bank Street College Best Books of 2011 & 2014, Crystal Kite Finalist, New Mexico Book Award Finalist.

Books by

KIMBERLEY GRIFFITHS LITTLE

Middle Grade Novels

The Time of the Fireflies, Scholastic Press
When the Butterflies Came, Scholastic Press
Circle of Secrets, Scholastic Press
The Healing Spell, Scholastic Press
The Last Snake Runner, Random House
Enchanted Runner, Avon Books
Breakaway, Avon Books

Young Adult Novels

Forbidden, HarperCollins
Banished, HarperCollins, Fall 2015
Untitled, HarperCollins, Fall 2016