

TEEN BOOK CLUB

January 2020 Selection

***Girl in Pieces* by Kathleen Glasgow**

Charlotte Davis is in pieces. At seventeen she's already lost more than most people do in a lifetime. But she's learned how to forget. The broken glass washes away the sorrow until there is nothing but calm. You don't have to think about your father and the river. Your best friend, who is gone forever. Or your mother, who has nothing left to give you. Every new scar hardens Charlie's heart just a little more, yet it still hurts so much. It hurts enough to not care anymore, which is sometimes what has to happen before you can find your way back from the edge. A deeply moving portrait of a girl in a world that owes her nothing, and has taken so much, and the journey she undergoes to put herself back together.

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Discussion Questions:

1. Who are the different people in Charlie's life who reach out to her with kindness, and how do they do so?
2. What do you think the cross represents to Charlie, and how does its meaning change for her over time?
3. Charlie notes, "There is being alone, and then there is being alone. They are not the same thing at all". What does Charlie mean by this difference? What are the times in her life when she feels most alone, and why? How does she feel about being alone?
4. As Charlie describes Ariel's paintings, "It seems like the darkness is almost trying to leave the whole thing, because the little light is back there, and it's turning its back on the light" What does the idea of darkness represent to Charlie? To Ariel? To Riley? What are the dark places in Charlie's life, and where does she find a little light?



5. Do you think Charlie will ever be completely free from her dark places?"
6. During difficult times, "I'm always losing things" becomes a refrain for Charlie. What, or whom, might Charlie be thinking of as her lost things? What do you think are Charlie's most significant lost things—mental, physical, or emotional? What are some of the ways, including self-harm, that Charlie tries to cope with her losses, and what are their effects?
7. Have you ever been stuck in a pattern of behavior that was negative, or needed to make a change in your life? How did you break the pattern? Who helped you make the positive changes that you needed to make?
8. How do you define a family? What are the bonds that make up your family?

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Recommendations:

- If you liked *Girl in Pieces*, you might like [*How to Make Friends with the Dark*](#)
- You might also enjoy [*Tell Me Three Things*](#)