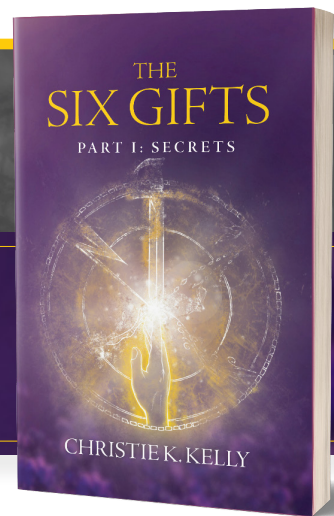


BOOK CLUB

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS



- ✦ How would you characterize “The Six Gifts: Secrets” on the whole? What type of book is it, and, if you think the author has succeeded in her aims, why do you think so?
- ✦ Why did the author choose to include the scene where the protagonist, Olivia, nearly drowns at the lake? Does it help to establish a pattern or relate to her other near-death experiences?
- ✦ Do you think Olivia’s dreams of the family at the river have more than one significance? If so, what do they signify? Do you believe it’s possible that the character of Mrs. Capricci could have planted the dreams in Olivia’s psyche?
- ✦ Olivia travels back to her hometown and, among many other events of that trip, faces her childhood demons. Do you believe that her facing them helps to diminish their power? And in what ways? Have you faced up to a trauma in your past, and did facing it help to heal you?
- ✦ Why do you think Olivia is drawn to the river? Are the dreams that she experiences before she takes her trip to Colorado of the Rio Grande River?
- ✦ Can you identify a subconscious reason why Olivia might choose to help the family of her high school boyfriend? What is that act’s significance? And do you think, perhaps, that her helping them gives her the insight and courage to heal her own family?
- ✦ What do you think the author had in mind when she developed the character of Mrs. Capricci? Do you believe that our society acknowledges the wisdom of our elderly and appropriately utilizes that knowledge for the advancement of our society?

- ♦ “Der are two sides to recovery, you know. First one musta let go of what is dead to eliminate, den dey musta find fertile soil to sow da love again.” These are Mrs. Capricci’s words of wisdom. What do you think she was trying to say to Olivia?
- ♦ Mrs. Capricci practices herbal medicine. The author takes us back to the 1600s, when a king’s daughter is healed by marshmallow root. Do you think there’s a connection between that ancient event and Mrs. Capricci’s immersion in herbals?
- ♦ It must be obvious to any reader that the relationships among the book’s characters are spread across many generations and hundreds of years. How does that aspect of the book help to strengthen the plot?
- ♦ Olivia guides Carly, the little girl she meets in Colorado, toward acceptance of and forgiveness for the abuse she experienced. What does this guidance do for Olivia? Mrs. Capricci says, “Sometime da young needa da old, and sometime da old needa da young.” How does this web of connections serve other multiple purposes in moving the book’s narrative forward?
- ♦ In one scene, Mrs. Capricci offers Olivia the following advice: “History repeat when we no let air to da wound. Once revealed in da open air, heartbreak no longer wear da crown of thorns. Dat way, forgiveness become easy.” Who does Olivia need to forgive? How does she let air suffuse those wounds?
- ♦ The novel touches on many themes (family, healing, forgiveness, hope and fate). Which of these themes do you feel was the most significant, and why? Which character was most relatable to you?
- ♦ Do you believe it’s possible that our fates are predestined? What events could lead you to believe that Olivia’s was? Do you think she was correct in her interpretation of what she calls The Why at the end of the book? What caused her to be disappointed when she thought she’d figured it out?
- ♦ Is there evidence that the Tapestry possesses magical properties? What does that evidence consist of, and how do you think Marco will use it?