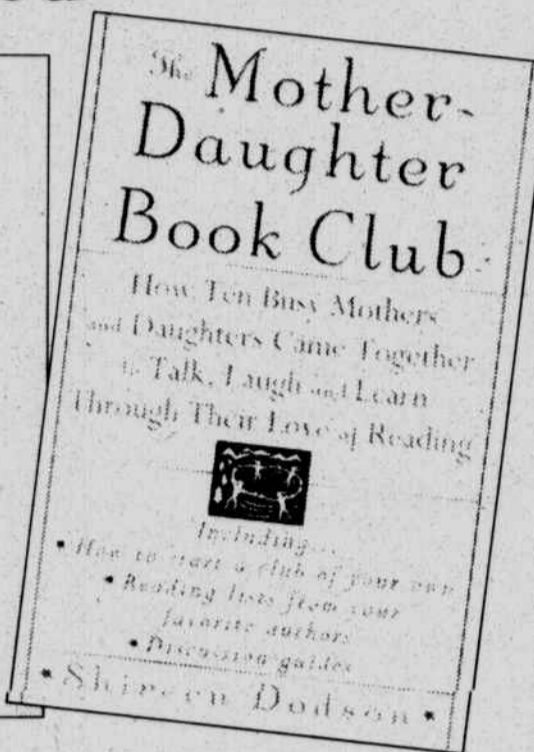


# YO! *Kidz*

## A Club Where Grownups Are Allowed



A couple years ago, Shireen Dodson was searching for ways to spend quality time with her daughter Morgan. So, she started the Mother-Daughter Book Club. The club, which includes 13 girls and their mothers, meets monthly at one of the members' homes. The mom prepares the food and the girl serves as hostess and leads discussion about that month's book. The girls talk about the book's plot and characters and setting. When they read *Charlie Pippin*, for example, they learned about the Vietnam War. The mothers can join in the discussion, too. But the girls cut the moms off if their comments get too long or take over the conversation.

The girls choose each month's selection from a book list their mothers put together. The book club, however, is not just about books and

reading. It's about explaining, questioning and learning. As such, the club helps the girls and their mothers find out how each other feels about different issues. As a result, it strengthens the ties between mothers and daughters.

Ms. Dodson wrote about the club in *The Mother-Daughter Book Club: How Ten Busy Mothers and Daughters Came Together to Talk, Laugh and Learn Through Their Love of Reading* (Harper Collins).

Her daughter, Morgan Fykes, a sixth grader at National Cathedral School in Washington, D.C., enjoys reading.

That's why I like the book club so much," she says. "The other good things about it are I get to play and talk more with my friends and I get

to be with my mom and hear her ideas when they aren't about cleaning up or doing my homework."

The other young members also get a lot out of the club. "One of the things I like best about *The Mother-Daughter Book Club*," says Rebecca Chastang, "is that I am now more aware of what my mom does, what she thinks is important, what I think is important, the things we do together and some of the things I want to do and don't want to do now when I grow up."

Although Ms. Dodson started the book club with her daughter in mind, the idea will also work for fathers and sons. For more information, get your mom or dad to read Ms. Dodson's book.

BOOK REVIEWS

### Check It Out!



**An Angel Just Like Me** by Mary Hoffman; illustrated by Cornelius Van Wright and Ying-Hwa Hu (Dial). When Tyler's family needs a new Christmas tree angel, he wonders why there aren't any black angels. He

makes it his special project to find a new angle for his family's tree — one that looks like him. But it's not until Christmas day that Tyler finds out that angels, just like people, can come in all different colors.



**The Little Reindeer** by Michael Foreman (Dial). One Christmas Eve, a little reindeer falls out of Santa's sleigh into a snow-covered city. The boy who finds him makes a home for him in the shed on his roof, and brings him peanut butter sandwiches and milk. Together, the boy and the reindeer spend one magical year.



**Diane Goode's American Christmas** collected and illustrated by Diane Goode (Puffin). Bursting with Christmas cheer, this all-American collection includes delightful poems and stories by writers such as Langston Hughes, along with favorite carols such as "Go Tell It on the Mountain."

are you Game?

The words below are hidden in this puzzle and can be found in the lead story. The words go up, down, across, backwards, and diagonally.

K K C C T T O L P D A E  
L O A T I F N S E S V A  
Y O A T E I D R K I E S  
T B L N S N O Y B C R R  
I Q B R E T H G U A D E  
L E U I S A E W L N L B  
A N R H R F A E C D I M  
U F A G P L A Y M L H E  
Q G N I D A E R N E C M

DAUGHTER FRIENDS  
MEETS MEMBERS  
PLOT BOOK  
TIES PLAY  
CLUB QUALITY  
READING

**WORD WARRIOR**  
God returns the good that one does.  
West African Proverb.

**YO! *Kidz***  
Carole Weatherford  
Sherry Poole Clark  
Publishers  
3313 Sparrowhawk Dr.  
High Point, NC 27265  
(910) 887-4505 or  
(910) 379-8295  
FAX (910) 274-1691  
e-mail: weathfd@aol.com

### FAMOUS FIRSTS



**Bill Pickett** (1860-1932) was the first black elected to the National Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame.

**William Tucker**, born in 1624 in Jamestown, Virginia, was the first African-American child born in the American colonies.

Greetings from Japan,

We visited a beautiful water garden. Koi and poi, large goldfish, swam among lilies in a pond. A gentle waterfall spilled over smooth stones. It was so peaceful there.

Afterwards, we donned kimonos — traditional silk robes — and attended a tea ceremony. That evening we snacked on sushi, bite-sized portions of vegetables and raw fish prepared like works of art.

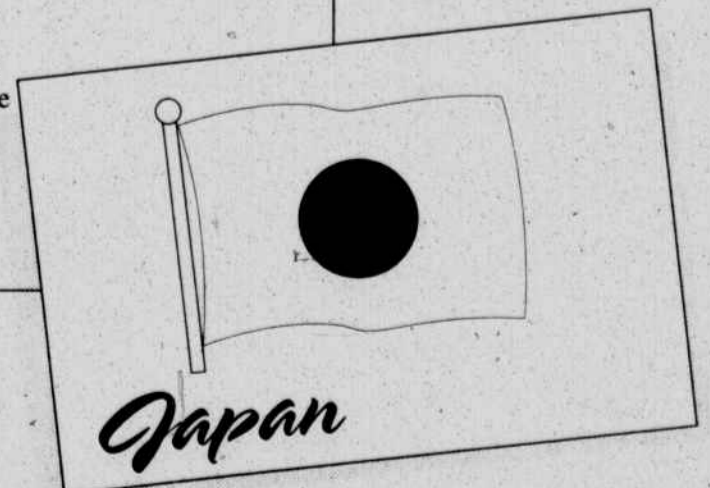
We also attended a Bunraki puppet theater. But nothing prepared us for the drama of one of Japan's many active volcanoes.

Bye for now,  
The Girlz

### Fast Facts about JAPAN

Population: 124 million  
Religion: Buddhism, Shinto, Confucianism  
Leading Industries: Electronics, Automotive, Fisheries

### Postcards



December



### In the Mix

**20th** National Flashlight Day

**21st** The first basketball game was played at the YMCA Training School (now Springfield College) in Springfield, Massachusetts. James Naismith had written down the rules of the game that morning.

**22nd** Thomas Edison created the first Christmas tree lights.

### Did you know?.....

Sweet Tooth:  
African Americans buy more sugar than whites

The game of Bingo was invented in December 1929.

Christmas custom:  
In Panama, children write letters to baby Jesus.

The best gifts don't cost a cent. Give a photo of yourself, or a coupon promising to do housework, sing a song or recite a poem.