



A PINCH OF MAGIC

Reading Group Notes

A Pinch of Magic is the tale of the Widdershins sisters:

Betty, Fliss and Charlie

They set out to break a family curse which keeps them trapped on the small island of Crowstone. But the curse isn't the only unusual thing about the Widdershins. Three magical objects have been passed down their family:

**A set of wooden nesting dolls,
a mirror, and a scruffy carpet bag**

Will they be enough to break the curse? Or will the sisters have better luck with the mysterious prisoner who says he can help them... for a price?

This story is probably best suited to readers aged 8-12, depending on ability. Here are some talking points which could be used in a reading group.

Pre-reading:

1. Look at the front and back covers and read the blurb. Does it make you want to read the book? Why, or why not?
2. What do you imagine the three magical objects to do?
3. Study the map in the front of the book. Which three places do you think will be most significant to the story, and why?

MICHELLE HARRISON



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1. Why do you think the author chose the name 'the Sorrow Isles'?
Can you think of another name for them?
2. Can you think of other words with the same meanings as
Lament, Repent, and Torment?
3. Read the author's note. What does the word 'widdershins' mean?
Have you ever heard of this word before?
4. What clues point to the Widdershins being an unlucky family?
Are there any numbers, objects or creatures mentioned in chapter one
that signal good or bad luck?
5. Are you, or is anyone you know superstitious?
What sort of things do you/they do?
6. Which magical object belonging to the sisters would you choose?
7. What would you do if you were invisible for the day?
8. How do Betty's feelings towards Granny and her sisters change
over the course of the story?
9. Which character surprised you the most?
Were you misled by any of them?

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10. What kind of atmosphere is created by the presence of crows?
What do they symbolise?
11. If you could only use three words to describe the story, what would they be?
12. The curse suggests that the Widdershins' destiny is unchangeable.
Do you believe everyone has a set destiny, or do we make our own?

Other books involving curses and enchantment:

Secrets of a Sun King by Emma Carroll

Wood Angel by Erin Bow

The Other Alice by Michelle Harrison

Snowglobe by Amy Wilson

Sky Song by Abi Elphinstone



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MICHELLE HARRISON