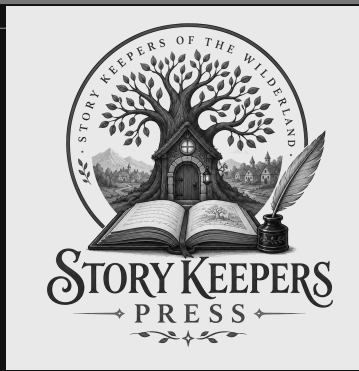




THE MINGLES

FAMILY READING CIRCLE KIT

A family guide for reading, listening, remembering, and learning to see another person through the story they carry.



StoryKeepers Press

Welcome to the Reading Circle



This kit is not a test and it is not a lesson disguised as a story. It is a way for families to enjoy *The Mingles in Wilderland* together, talk about what the story awakens, and practice the kind of listening that helps another person become more real to us.

Read aloud, listen to the audiobook, read silently, or move back and forth among all three. Choose one conversation prompt after a reading session, try an activity when it feels natural, and leave the rest for another day.

There are no perfect answers. The goal is not to finish every page. The goal is to notice, listen, and remember.

The StoryKeeper Motto

**My job is not to tell my story.
My job is to help someone else's story be remembered.**

In Wilderland, StoryKeepers are historians of people. They listen to the memories of others and preserve them so that a life, a choice, a kindness, a failure, or a hard-won truth will not disappear when time passes.

A StoryKeeper begins with attention. When we learn someone's story, that person often looks different to us. Someone who seemed strange, difficult, foolish, or frightening may become someone we can understand - and sometimes someone we can love.



Family Conversation



Choose one or two prompts after each reading session. Let everyone answer, but no one has to. Listening counts.

If You Had Been There

Which character would you have wanted to walk beside today? Why?

Who Is Most Like You?

Which character is most like you? Your mom? Your dad? One of your siblings? Why?

Friendship and Loyalty

How were friendship and loyalty shown in the part of the story you read today? How has someone been a loyal friend to you? How have you shown friendship and loyalty to another person?

A Person Becomes More Real

Did you learn something today that changed the way you felt about a character? What did you understand after you knew more of that character's story?

Courage

Who showed courage today? Was it loud courage, quiet courage, reluctant courage, or courage that came too late?

Wonder

What scene, place, creature, or idea made you stop and imagine Wilderland?

Looking Ahead

What question are you carrying into the next chapter? What do you hope happens - and what do you fear may happen?



Practice Being a StoryKeeper



StoryKeepers do not begin by writing. They begin by listening.

Every person carries memories no one else can tell in quite the same way. A StoryKeeper listens carefully, asks respectful questions, and preserves another person's memory with permission. This is not a diary exercise. Your task is not to record your own memory. Your task is to help another person's memory survive.

Why it matters

When you know only what a person did, it can be easy to judge. When you learn what happened to them, what they feared, what they lost, what they hoped for, and why they chose as they did, your heart may change.

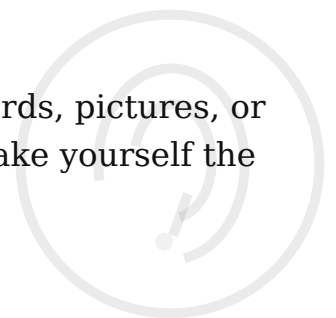
Understanding does not mean excusing every choice. It means seeing the person more fully.

Ask someone in your family

Choose one question. Listen without interrupting. Ask a follow-up only when it helps the person continue.

- What happened when you were my age that helped make you who you are?
- What is one family memory you hope no one ever forgets?
- Tell me about a time someone was loyal to you when it mattered.
- What is one hard thing you lived through that taught you something?
- Who is someone from our family I should know better through the stories you remember?
- What is one mistake, embarrassment, honor, kindness, or joyful moment that deserves to be remembered?

With the storyteller's permission, preserve the memory in words, pictures, or both. Keep the teller's meaning. Do not improve the story, make yourself the hero, or turn it into something it was not.



Timbit's StoryKeeper Sketchbook

Give each family member a small sketchbook or notebook. As you read or listen, sketch what you are hearing, seeing, wondering, or feeling.

You might draw:

- a character as you imagine that character
- a place in Wilderland
- an invention or tool
- a moment of courage or kindness
- a symbol for how the chapter felt
- a detail from another person's memory that should not be lost

It does not have to be perfect. StoryKeepers record what matters, not masterpieces.

Build a Wilderland Memory Map

Reserve two facing pages in the sketchbook for a growing map. Add each place as the family encounters it. Mark where something important happened, draw paths between locations, and add a small symbol for a memory connected to that place.

The map does not need to match Horatio's map exactly. It is a memory map: a record of how your family experienced the journey.



The StoryKeepers Memory Chest



Choose a small box, basket, tin, or jar. This becomes your family's Memory Chest.

Use the printable slips on the following page to preserve memories shared by another person. One slip may hold a sentence. Another may need the back of the card. Some memories may become a full page in Timbit's StoryKeeper Sketchbook.

Before placing a memory in the chest, ask:

- Whose memory is this?
- Did I listen carefully?
- Did I preserve the teller's meaning?
- Do I have permission to keep it?
- What does this memory help me understand about this person?

Open the chest from time to time. Read one memory aloud. Remember the person, not merely the event.

The smallest memory may become someone's greatest treasure.



Printable StoryKeeper Memory Slips



Print this page, cut along the borders, and place the blank slips near your family's Memory Chest.

STORYKEEPER MEMORY Whose memory am I keeping? _____ The memory: _____ _____ _____ What does this help me understand? _____ Date: _____ StoryKeeper: _____	STORYKEEPER MEMORY Whose memory am I keeping? _____ The memory: _____ _____ _____ What does this help me understand? _____ Date: _____ StoryKeeper: _____
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The StoryKeeper Moment



Before closing the book, ask one question:

What is one thing from today's Mingles adventure that you would like to remember?

No one has to explain. Just listen.

Then ask a second question from time to time:

Whose story did we understand better today?

That is where StoryKeeping begins. We listen long enough for another person to become more real to us. We preserve what we have been trusted to hear. And when we carry someone else's story faithfully, our hearts - and sometimes our world - can change.

Continue the journey

Use this family kit alongside the complete audiobook, the illustrated ebook, Chart No. 127, and the Educator Guide to the Wilderland.

theminglesinwilderland.com

