

For And About You

What to Do About The Kleptomaniac

By Harriett Muhammad

DEAR HARRIETT: I'm a teenager and have a group of girls my own age that I go around with. We make up a pretty good group and get along fine except for one problem that has recently developed.

One of the girls in our group has started to "pick up" things. Twice now, I've been missing a piece of jewelry after she's left my house. This has happened to a couple of the others, too, so we know we've got the right girl. Outside of this bad habit, the girl is a lot of fun, but lately we haven't been able to relax around her like we used to do. What shall we do with her? —J. R. & the F.F. Club—Detroit, Mich.

DEAR J. R.: Why don't you get this girl alone and tell her about someone in the group being light fingered, but in such a way so as to make her think the suspicion's not on her. Start talking about how you discovered the thefts, how you loathe someone that would stoop so low as to call themselves a friend and then steal from you behind your back. Really go into it and seem very upset, at the same time asking her what she thinks about it.

If she seems upset or does not have much to say, you could be working on her conscience. If, on the other

hand, she outdoes you in downing a thief—watch out.

Tell her that you're going to alert the others to keep their eyes open. Then let the others, who are aware of the situation, know what went on so that they too can be observers of her actions.

If this girl wants to stop stealing from you, this is where she could stop. If she would want to continue, this is when pressure may stop her. One way or the other, you have given her an opportunity to subsist. If after a short interval, you find that she has stolen again, then you'll have to take more direct action—like bringing everything out in the open in order to find out whether she's going to be "in" or "out" of your group.

DEAR HARRIETT: I am nine years old and very mixed up.

I would like to know who the boss is supposed to be in the family. My mother says to ask daddy when I want to do something, and my daddy tells me to ask my mother. I'm getting very

Hints

If you spread the meringue on the pie so that it touches the crust on each side and bake in a moderate oven, 350 degrees, it will not shrink.

If you desire a rich golden brown pie crust, brush cream over the crust and sprinkle lightly with sugar before placing in the oven.

Simple but festive desserts during this season include small cups of custard which have been well chilled and decorated with candied fruit. Serve with thin slices of fruit cake.

Do you throw out a lot of old coffee in your home? Don't waste the beverage, sweeten and add some plain gelatin, then mold and you have a perfect and simple dessert. Serve with cream.

To keep berry or fruit pies from running over, insert a strip of cloth, one and a half inches wide around edge of crust.

tired of this.—J.M.—Los Angeles, Calif.

DEAR J.M.: The next time you all eat together, ask your daddy if he is the head of your family.

If he is like most daddys he'll answer "yes." Then tell them just what you've told me and ask them to please make up their minds so that you won't have to stay so mixed up!

Something on your mind? Write and tell me about it.

Harriett Muhammad
Westwood Plaza
Box 390

Los Angeles, Calif. 90024