



**Who is Who?**

**My Top Secret Diary**

**Name: .....**

# The 39 Clues



## 1. Getting started: A million Dollars... or a Clue

What would happen if you discovered that your family was one of the most powerful and important ones in human history? What if you were told that your family's secret was hidden around the world in the form of 39 Clues?

What would you do if you had the choice between

- taking a million dollars and walking away ...
- or getting the first CLUE ... that might lead you to the second CLUE... and the third....?

Let's discuss this in class.

## 2. Read the intro to book 1 and find out how it all started

Five minutes before she died, Grace Cahill changed her will.

Her lawyer brought out the alternate version, which had been her most guarded secret for seven years. Whether or not she would actually be crazy enough to use it, William McIntyre had never been certain.

"Madam," he asked, "are you sure?"

Grace gazed out the window, across the sunlit meadows of her estate. Her cat, Saladin, snuggled beside her as he had throughout her illness, but his presence was not enough to comfort her today. She was about to set in motion events that might cause the end of civilization.

"Yes, William." Her every breath was painful. "I'm sure."

William broke the seal on the brown leather folder. He was a tall craggy man. His nose was pointed like a sundial so it always cast a shadow over one side of his face. He had been Grace's adviser, her closest confidant, for half her life. They'd shared many secrets over the years, but none as perilous as this.

He held the document for her to review. A fit of coughing wracked her body. Saladin meowed with concern. Once the coughing passed, William helped her take the pen. She scrawled her weak signature across the paper.

"They're so young," William lamented. "If only their parents—"

"But their parents didn't," Grace said bitterly. "And now the children must be old enough. They are our only chance."

"If they don't succeed—"

"Then five hundred years of work have been for nothing," Grace said. "Everything collapses. The family, the world—all of it."

William nodded grimly. He took the folder from her hands.

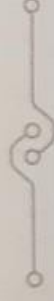
Grace sat back, stroking Saladin's silver fur. The scene outside the window made her sad. It was too gorgeous a day to die. She wanted to have one last picnic with the children. She wanted to be young and strong and travel the world again.

But her eyesight was failing. Her lungs labored. She clutched her jade necklace—a good-luck talisman she'd found in China years ago. It had seen her through many close calls with death, many lucky misses. But the talisman couldn't help her anymore.

She'd worked hard to prepare for this day. Still, there was so much she'd left undone . . . so much she had never told the children.

"It will have to be enough," she whispered.

And with that, Grace Cahill closed her eyes for the last time.



When he was sure Grace had passed away, William McIntyre went to the window and closed the curtains. William preferred darkness. It seemed more proper for the business at hand.

The door opened behind him. Grace's cat hissed and disappeared under the bed.

William didn't look back. He was staring at Grace Cahill's signature on her new will, which had just become the most important document in the Cahill family's history.

"Well?" a brusque voice said.

William turned. A man stood in the doorway, his face obscured by shadows, his suit as black as oil.

"It's time," William said. "Make sure they suspect nothing."

William couldn't tell for sure, but he thought the man in black smiled.

"Don't worry," the man promised. "They'll never have a clue."

### 3. The Cahill family

The Cahill family is the most powerful family in human history. Unfortunately, they do not all get along very well. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the family started to fight and broke into five groups, called branches. Their fighting started when Gideon Cahill invented a serum (a medicine) that could cure the Black Plague. He drank the serum and became really strong. His children wanted to have the serum too, but he gave only parts of the serum to each of his children. Therefore, they started to fight and tried to steal the missing parts from each other. This is how the whole problem started.



Grandmother Grace is the only one who seems to know a bit more ... but she has just died.

The siblings Dan and Amy have accepted the challenge and want to find the 39 CLUES that will lead to the serum. If they find all the clues, they can save the world. But will they manage? ... or will they be killed trying to find the clues?

Lucian	Ekaterina	Tomas	Janus	Madrigal
<p>The members of the Lucian branch are leaders and spies. Many of them are mean and ruthless and often use poison to kill their enemies. Everybody is afraid of them. Their mascot is a red two-headed snake.</p>	<p>The members of the Ekaterina branch are also called EKATS. They are often scientists and inventors. Be careful, some Cahills just claim that they belong to the Ekats but actually belong to a more dangerous branch. Their mascot is the yellow dragon.</p>	<p>The members of the Tomas branch are often athletes, explorers and warriors. They are strong and work hard to be successful. Their mascot is the polar bear.</p>	<p>The members of the Janus Branch love the arts. They are creative artists (painters, writers, singers, actors...). Their mascot is a green wolf.</p>	<p>The Madrigals want to reunite the Cahill family. If one branch of the family becomes too powerful, they will destroy their work and if necessary, kill them. The Madrigals are very intelligent and special. They keep lots of secrets. Many famous people belong to this branch.</p>

## 4. Starting to read:

Find the students who have received the same book and start to read. (30min)

Who are the **main characters** that you meet in your book?

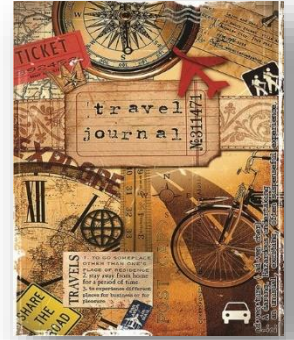
Add their names into the table below and collect information about them.

<b>Name</b>	<b>What branch does this character belong to?</b>	<b>What else do you find out about this character? Age, interests, personality traits, job, ...</b>



## 5. The Clue Hunters' Travel Diary

Slip into the mind of **either Dan or Amy** and write **3 detailed diary entries** of “your” adventures. Choose the most interesting places and events that they have encountered.



In your diary

- explain why you went there and what you were trying to find
- describe the places you have visited
- say what happened there
- make sure you include “your” thoughts and feelings, worries, hopes ...

Diaries are usually full of such personal reflections. People do not write diary entries on boring days. 😊

Look at the next page to learn more about “How to write a diary entry”.

# How to write a diary entry

Date

January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

Start with a main impression of the day or situation. Was it a wonderful day, a stressful / scary / sad / happy ... situation?

Dear Diary,

Write in the first person: "I"

This clue-hunt turns out a lot more dangerous than I had expected. Even the first day almost got us killed. ~~Everybody seems to be against us, and we cannot trust anybody.~~

After Grace's funeral, Dan and I went into grandma's house to think about our next steps. We wanted to be alone, but unfortunately, uncle Alistair had followed us and ~~there was no way to get rid of him.~~ I hate him - he is so weird.

The first clue on the card was really mysterious, and I had no idea who Richard S. might be. I thought we might start our search in grandma's library. That was certainly a good idea, but it almost got us killed.

While we were looking around for some clues in the library, Dan noticed a secret door built into the library shelves. We managed to open it and walked down into a deep basement. It was HUGE - and full of the most exotic, old books. Just AWESOME!!! If only we had had more time to explore,.... but suddenly we smelled smoke.

It was getting worse very quickly and we were all trying to find a way out of the secret basement. The smoke was stinging our eyes and filling our lungs. The bookshelves were all burning, and the heat was getting worse. Dan was coughing and wheezing behind me and I really thought we were going to die. I have never been so scared in my life. 😞

Fortunately, we found an exit and crawled out into blinding daylight. We were lying in the cemetery, right behind grandma's fresh grave.

From there, we could see the old house on fire. There was no way to save anything there.

What a terrible start. I wonder if we should have taken the money instead of going on this clue-hunt. It's going to be sooo dangerous and I am REALLY scared. Of course, I cannot show this to Dan - I am the older sister, so I have to be strong.

Wish me luck!

Write honestly what you think about people and situations.

Describe what happened (simple past tense)

and

what it was like (past progressive - ing form)

Write how it made you feel.

You can also add emojis.

Future hopes / worries / expectations.

What do you think is going to happen next?

Date:.....









