



Who is Who?

My Top Secret Diary

Name:

The 39 Clues



1. Getting started: A million Dollars...

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.

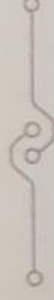
Grace sat back, stroking Saladin's silver fur. The scene outside the window made her sad. It was too gorgeous a day to die. She wanted to have one last picnic with the children. She wanted to be young and strong and travel the world again.

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 16th 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?

<p>Lucian</p> 	<p>Ekaterina</p> 	<p>Tomas</p> 	<p>Janus</p> 	<p>Madrigal</p> 
<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)

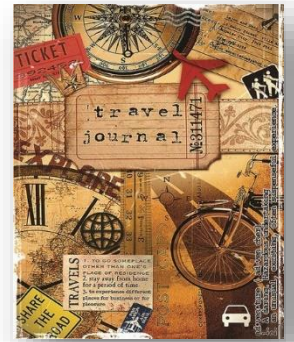
Who are the **main characters** that you meet in your book?

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

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

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 2nd, 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.

Write honestly what you think about people and situations.

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.

Describe what happened (simple past tense)

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.

Write how it made you feel.

and what it was like (past progressive - ing form)

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. (😱)

You can also add emojis.

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.

Future hopes/ worries/ expectations.

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.

What do you think is going to happen next?

Wish me luck!

Diary entry 1

Date:.....



continue diary entry 1



6. Talk to a friend



Imagine this: After a dramatic day, you (Amy or Dan) are calling a friend on Whatsapp.

Tell your friend about the dramatic events of the day.

Your friend will listen carefully and ask several questions to find out more details about your dramatic day.

Step 1: Let's do 1-2 such conversations in the plenary.

Step 2: Work in pairs and tell each other about "your" dramatic days. Listen carefully to your partner's story and ask at least 5 questions to find out more details.

Step 3: In the plenary, you will have to report what you have found out about your friend's dramatic experiences. Be prepared to tell us lots of details.

Then keep reading your book and write a second diary entry for Amy or Dan by Friday.

7. Diary entry 2

Date:



Diary entry 2



8. Grammar Challenge 1

Why has the writer used these tense forms?

In this scene Amy is being chased by the Kabras. Amy has climbed on top of an old church steeple (tower)

Work with a partner. Read the text and explain why the writer has used these tenses, rather than other ones.

Why **past simple**, why **past progressive (-ing form)**?

Tip: Use your grammar book, part 1 and check if you find a helpful explanation for these tense forms there.

Finally, Amy was at the peak (=top of the church). An old iron lightning rod pointed into the sky. At its base was a metal ring like a tiny basketball hoop, and below that a grounding wire, just like Franklin had recommended in his early experiments. Amy **lashed (wound, tied) the wire around her wrist**, then **took** out the vial (= glass container) . It was so slippery she almost lost it. Carefully, **she slipped it into the iron ring** — a perfect fit. She **inched back down the roof (=she climbed back down)**. “Please,” she thought, holding on tight to the rungs. She didn’t have to wait long. The hair stood up on the back of her neck. She smelled something like burning aluminum foil, and then, CRACCCCK! **The sky exploded**. Sparks rained down all around her, hissing on the wet tiles.

Dazed, **she lost her balance** and **skittered down the roof**. She **grabbed** frantically and **caught** a rung so hard pain shot up her wrist. But she held on and **began to climb** back to the top. The glass vial was glowing. The green liquid inside was no longer murky and slimy. It seemed to be made of pure green light, trapped in glass. Carefully, Amy touched it. There was no shock. It wasn’t even warm. She **slipped the vial (=glass container) out of its brace** and **put it back** in her pocket. As thou charge this, so I charge thee. The hardest part was still to come. She had to get away safely and figure out what she’d just created.

“Dan! I did it!” **She climbed back** into the bell tower, but **her smile melted**. Dan **was lying** on the floor, bound and gagged. **Standing over him**, in black combat fatigues, was Ian Kabra. “Hello, cousin.” Ian held out a plastic syringe. “I’ll trade you.” “MMMM!” Dan struggled and tried to say something. “MMMM! MMMM!” “Let—let him go!” Amy stammered. She was sure her face was bright red. She hated that she was stuttering again. Why did Ian Kabra turn her tongue to lead? The bronze bell shuddered. **The Holts were still pounding away (=they were hitting the door)** below, trying to get through the trapdoor.

The 39 Clues Book 1: The Maze of Bones (pp. 204-205). Scholastic Inc.. Kindle Edition.

9. Grammar challenge 2 (for pros)

Look at the underlined phrases. Why has the writer used the past perfect tense here?

had finished... had found...had met...had stayed...

January 2nd, 2021

Dear Diary,

Today I got into a really tricky situation again. A few minutes ago, I was hanging upside down in a mine, copying and memorizing a text. This was one of the scariest things I have ever done. It was totally dark, and I was scared of falling down even deeper into the hole below me. 😞

I was hanging in there, head down because I was copying a text that was carved into the stone wall. I knew it was an important message for the next clue in South Africa.

When I had finished copying the text, Nellie pulled me up and Amy and Nelly wanted to know what I had found out down there and why I had stayed down there so long. But there was a problem: we were not alone. Court, the strange boy that we had met earlier was also there. I did not trust him at all, he might be following us in order to get to the clue first. Therefore, I said that there was nothing special down there, just bats and rats.

When we were finally alone, I told Amy and Nelly what I had found. I am soooo excited – I am sure this will lead us to the next clue. I hope Court won't follow us tomorrow. We have to get away from here as fast as possible...

Wish me luck!

Tip: In what order did these things happen? Draw the events on the timeline:

Example:

When I had finished copying the text, Nellie pulled me up.

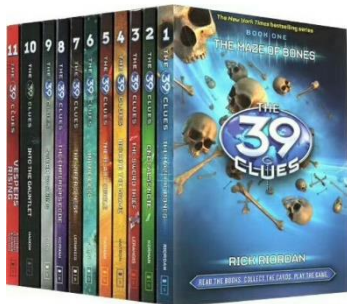


The strange boy that we had met earlier was also there.



Nelly wanted to know what I had found out.





Read another book from the 39 Clues series

Swap books with your classmates and read another one of the 39 Clues adventures.

Have a look at the next task before you start reading.

10. Famous historical figures

We know that the Cahill family is related to many famous historical characters. Therefore, these characters play an important role in the clue hunt.

In each of the 39 Clues books, Amy and Dan find out interesting facts about a famous character from history. Some are very old -- others more recent, but all of them are world-famous and have contributed important things to our society.

Step 1: While reading your second book, collect bits and pieces of information about the historic character that plays a role in the book. Print out the "who-was" fact sheet and collect your notes there.



Famous Cahill Characters from History

Who was..... (name)?

Collect your notes here.

11. More Research

After reading the book, go to [SIMPLE WIKIPEDIA](#) and do some research on your character. Add more notes here.

ATTENTION: write keywords or short phrases – not whole sentences. Do NOT plagiarize – (copy other people's texts). Just take notes notes here.

12: Write an info page about the famous character for your classmates.

Write a first draft and upload it to Moodle. Then correct your text and write your second draft on this page.



Famous Cahill Characters from History

Who was.....(name)?

13. A Diary entry from another point of view

Read at least 50 pages of the new book. Choose an interesting character (not Amy or Dan) and an interesting scene from the book.

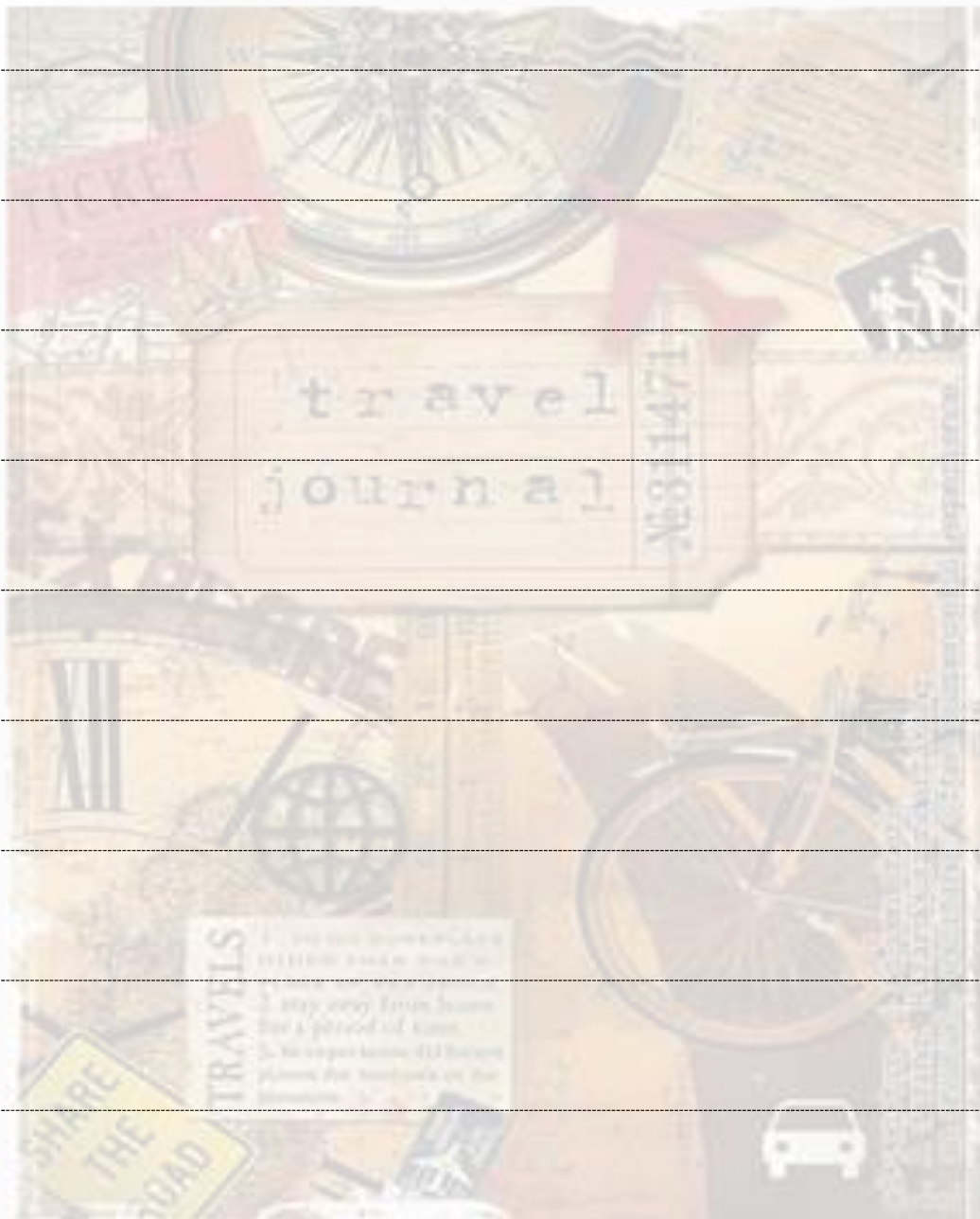
Write a diary entry from this person's point of view. Upload your first draft to Moodle. Then copy your revised diary on this page.

Remember: In a good diary entry the character describes

- the events of the day
- how they felt about these events
- their plans for the next steps

Write a long and detailed diary --not just a few lines.





14. Speaking Activity: Teaming up against Amy and Dan



We now know that all the other branches of the Cahills are also hunting the clues. Some of them are building teams and alliances in order to fight against Amy and Dan. In this task choose one character from your book who is from another branch of the family. Meet with a partner and act out a (telephone-)conversation where you ask each other what you know about Amy and Dan and how you could pair up in order to get to the next clue before them.

- Discuss what Amy and Dan have recently done ...
- what clues or parts of clues they have found...
- where you have met them...
- what you and your own branch have recently done to find the next clue ...
- what you are planning to do next in order to get to the next clue before Amy and Dan can find it

Practice your conversation, then act it out for your teacher.