



Who is Who?

My Top Secret Diary

Name: *Valentin K.*.....

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?



Lucian	Ekaterina	Tomas	Janus	Madrigal
				
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.	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.	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.	The members of the Janus Branch love the arts. They are creative artists (painters, writers, singers, actors...). Their mascot is a green wolf.	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.

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, ...
Amy Cahill	Madrigal	Amy is 16 years old. She is a orphan. She knows much about history.
Dan Cahill	Madrigal	Dan is eleven years old. He is a orphan. He is a good puzzle solver.
Astoria Oh	Ekaterina	He is Dan and Amy's uncle. He always tricks Amy and Dan. But he cares about them.
Ian Kabra	Lucian	Ian is 14 years old. He is Natalie's brother.
Natalie Kabra	Lucian	Natalie is eleven years old. She is Ian's sister.

Nellie Gomez	(Madrigal)	She is Amy's and Dan's au pair. She is not a cat. She listens a lot to music
Saladin	(Madrigal)	He is an Egypt cat. He was Grace's cat. Now he spends time with Amy, Dan and Nellie
Irina Spaskey	Lucian	She was a KGB agent. She is mysterious. She is brutal
Hamilton Holt	Tomas	He is 16 years old. He is in the school football team. He is Madison's sister and the son from Eisenhower Holt
Eisenhower Holt	Tomas	He is the father of Hamilton and Madison. He is massive.
Madison Holt	Tomas	she is eleven years old. she is Hamilton's sister and the son of Eisenhower Holt

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

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

Date

January 2nd, 2021

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) and what it was like (past progressive form)

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. You can also add emojis.

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.

Future hopes/worries/expectations.

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.

What do you think is going to happen next?

Wish me luck!

Describe what happened

Diary entry 1

Date: 13th November 2022

Today was a very confusing day. We got tricked a lot and we are not sure if we can trust any of our family relatives.

Our plan for today was to fly to Tokyo but we had to cancel that. The Kabras stole our plane tickets and our au pair Nellie flew to Tokyo without us. We were very frustrated, but we knew that we had to find another way to go to Tokyo. So, we were looking for a Taxi. And there was a big surprise. In the Taxi which Dan and I wanted to take our uncle Alistair was already waiting for us. He told us that if we tell told him everything we knew about the clues he would take us to Tokyo with his private jet. We knew that we couldn't trust him because he had tricked us before, but we also knew that we had no choice, so we agreed. Of course, we didn't tell him everything we knew. Luckily he believed us. In the private jet I finally had time to think about all the things which happened today. The big question was if we can trust our uncle. I mean he tricked us before but this time he actually helped us and it seemed like he really cares about us. I wanted to ask Dan what he thought but he was already sleeping. How can this jerk sleep when you think about what happened today.

Today happened a lot but we moved forward. Our chances to find the next clue don't seem that bad. I just hope that Alistair doesn't trick us again.

Wish me the best!

7. Diary entry 2

Date:

24th November

Dear Diary!

It is very hard to describe what happened today. I mean we found the next clue, which is very good, but we also got tricked a lot.

Deep down we both knew that the Kabras and our uncle would trick us, but it is still very frustrating. I can see the pain in Amy's eyes. It really hurt her, that this Kabra boy who she certainly started to like (she is a hopeless case) lied to her.

Yesterday Amy had her genius five minutes (now she believes that she is smarter than me) and we found the place where we had to search for the next clue. Today we drove to this place. (The most stupid place where you could hide something). In the middle of a big mountain range. We spent all our energy to climb on a big mountain. When we arrived at the top, we had to realize that we didn't know where exactly the clue was. We wanted to spread out but then Amy had her genius five minutes again (she always has them at the right time). In one of the books from our uncle's library we read something like: The clue is hidden in a "W". And on our way, we saw a rock which was formed like a "W". We went back to this rock and saw, that there was a small hole. A statue was standing in front of this hole, so you couldn't crawl through it. After solving some puzzles and whatever, we realized we had to feed the statue with the cool philosopher coin. We put the coin into the statue's mouth and with a loud sound it started to move. Crawling through the hole was exhausting, but it paid off. After crawling for some minutes, we came to a big cave. Massive stalactites were rising from the ceiling. Our uncle Alistair lit some torches and we made a cave exploration. Now we are at the part where it gets interesting. In the middle of the cave was a small room. Big chests which were filled with gold were standing everywhere in the room. Of course, we stuffed our pockets with the gold. (Such a chance you only have one time in your life. But in the room there was another thing, which was way more interesting than all the gold. An old metal triangle with strange letters on it. Everybody made a confused face but of course I knew what we had to do. It was an anagram, so we had to rearrange the letters to find the solution. With the first look on the puzzle I knew what the solution was, but I did not tell anybody because I had a strange feeling. Natalie was the first one to think about a word which actually made sense: "Lake Tash" a lake in Kyrgyzstan. Amy, our uncle and I just looked at the triangle for a second. That was our mistake. When my eyes left the triangle, I saw Ian and Natalie already standing in front of the entrance to the cave. Natalie had a dart

Diary entry 2

gun in her hand which was pointing directly into my face. Ian fed the statue with the coin and the statue started moving back to its normal place again.

I mean I knew they would trick us, so it was not really hard for me to accept that, but Amy... She didn't look good. This Kabra boy really hurt her feelings. What are we going to do when we see them again?

I have talked enough about my feelings. As I said I knew that the Kabras would trick us, so I didn't say anything when Natalie solved the puzzle in the wrong way. "Lake Tash" what jerks, it was clear that that's not the answer. With the first look, I knew that the solution was "Al Sakhet" an Egyptian goddess. So, the next clue will be in Kairo. The biggest city in Egypt. But that was actually not our biggest problem. We got literally buried alive and the only way out was closed again. So, we had to make us another way out of the cave. And then something happened that I didn't expect. Our uncle came up with a super stupid idea (not Amy). He saw that some sort of gunpowder was lying on the ground and he thought that he could blast us a way out. Amy and I had no better idea, so we prepared everything. But then everything went wrong. Our uncle Alistair lit the gunpowder and the roof exploded. Amy and Alistair helped me crawling through the roof and then we helped Amy. We also wanted to help our uncle but suddenly the cave started to shake. Alistair said that we should run away as fast as we could. We wanted to help him, but we knew that there was no chance for our uncle.

I was surprised, how much I actually cared about Alistair. He has tricked us a lot, but he was very kind and without him we would not have the next clue. Our au pair Nellie drove us back to our uncle's villa. We wanted to pay our last respect to him and went to his bedroom. And there we saw something that changed everything. A white pair of gloves. Alistair's gloves.

He had tricked us. He had done it again. I was happy that he was alive, but I was so frustrated and disappointed. I knew Amy felt the same. How could he play all this like that. I thought this time he actually cared about us.

Wish us luck

Your Dan

Now find 5 examples of the past perfect tense in your book.

Write the sentences on this page, and draw similar timelines.

It had been about her.

He thought about her → He thought about *

The air was slowly clearing, and the noise had stopped

The noise stopped → The air was slowly clearing

His train had found Amy's backpack and was pulling out slowly

He found Amy's backpack → He was pulling out something

They were in a cave that had not been seen by a human for 1000 years

The cave had not been seen by a half man → They were in a cave

It was the coolest thing he had ever seen.

He saw something → It was the coolest thing he had

ever seen.

* something else



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 Taira Tomi Hideyoshi (name)?

Collect your notes here.

also known as
Kinoshita Tokichito
and Ashibo Hideyoshi
Samurai, Daimyo
Unite Japan
D: a lot in the background

1536/1537/1538 - 1598
born in Owari (Japan)
Leader of Japan (not official)
Member of many clans
Had many castles
still visible

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 Toyotomi Hideyoshi (name)?

Toyotomi Hideyoshi, also known as Kinoshita Tokichiro and Hashibo Hideyoshi was born somewhere between 1536-1538 in Owari (Japan). He was a famous Samurai and Daiymo (The Daiyimos ruled many parts of Japan from 1000-1900). He was also known as the "Great Unifier" because he wanted to unite Japan.

1570 Hideyoshi started to play a more important role in the history of Japan. Not much is known about his early life. According to the Japan history books, Toyotomi was born on the 17th of March 1538 in the province Owari as the soon of two farmers. His father was recruited as a "Ashigaru" (A farmer that got recruited by the Samurai as a foot soldier). When Toyotomi was only seven years old his father died while he was fighting for the Samurai.

Later in 1558 when Hideyoshi was 20 years old, he got recruited as a Samurai by the "Oda Clan". The "Oda Clan" was a clan led by a group of Daiyimos, they had control over many parts in Japan. Under the supervision of Nubunaga (the leader of the "Oda Clan") Hideyoshi defended many Oda castles. Some of the are still visible. Soon he was promoted the most trusted general and later he counselled the emperor and became one of the most powerful men in Japan. In 1582 Nubunaga died and the "Oda Clan" broke up. Hideyoshi founded his own clan, the "Toyotomi Clan". The "Toyotomi Clan" started to get a lot of influence on Japan from the background. Hideyoshi retired from the public and started to disappear in the history books. In 1598 he died of old age.