



Agent Training

Dear Book Club Host:

Welcome back to The 39 Clues Book Club! If you're new to the club, don't forget to check out the **Establish Your Cahill Stronghold** introductory theme materials and get ready to embark on another exciting adventure in reading fun! Or if your club has just finished reading one of The 39 Clues books make sure to check out the **book overview tab** for book specific content.

This month, your club members will undergo **Agent Training!** They will hone their Cahill skills through practicing their communication skills, cracking codes, and developing top-secret disguises!

Activity 1: Lost in Translation

Prepare ahead: 1) Print the **Lost in Translation** handout. 2) Cut out all ten sentences and place them in a bowl.

To be an agent, communication is key. When a top-secret message comes in, there's no room for error. Test club members' communication and concentration skills with this classic game of telephone. This activity works best with a group of three or more people.

To start, have club members line up or sit in a circle. Ask the first participant to randomly choose a strip of paper from the bowl, being careful not to show anyone what it says. Then, he or she should whisper the sentence as quietly as possible to the second person in line. The second person should whisper the same sentence to the third person and so on until the last person in line has heard the sentence. The last person in line should say the sentence aloud to the group.

After the round is completed, discuss with club members how the sentence changed, if at all. When did communication break down and why?

If your group plays multiple rounds, be sure to mix up the order of the "telephone line." Choose a different club member to start and end each round of the **Lost in Translation** activity.

Bonus: If there is time, have club members come up with their own top-secret messages!

Activity 2: Crack the Code

Prepare ahead: Photocopy the **Crack the Code** handout. (Make enough copies for each child.)

The Hunt can take you anywhere, even out to sea! At sea, coded messages are often exchanged via international signal flags, and every skilled agent needs to know how to read them. Now it's your club members' turn to prove their code-cracking abilities.

This activity can be done either in pairs or individually. Pass out the **Crack the Code** handout and read the introduction aloud to the group. Then, have club members use the key to answer this question about Hamilton Holt: What is Hamilton Holt's middle name?

Answer Key: Grover.

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Activity 3: Hidden Presidents

Prepare ahead: Photocopy the **Hidden Presidents** handout. (Make enough copies for each child.)

A mysterious postcard has just arrived to your stronghold from an anonymous source! On the front of the postcard you'll see Mount Rushmore. Your club members probably already recognize the four people carved in stone as past U.S. presidents. But do your club members know that they were also Cahills?

This activity can be done either in pairs or individually. Pass out the **Hidden Presidents** handout and read the introduction aloud to the group. Have club members look at the **Hidden Presidents** handout and read the hints below the postcard to discover which Cahill branch each president belonged to.

Answer Key: Jefferson - Janus; Lincoln - Ekaterina; Roosevelt - Lucian; Washington - Tomas

Activity 4: Agent in Disguise

Prepare ahead: 1) Photocopy the **Agent in Disguise** handout. (Make enough copies for each child.) **2)** Collect drawing supplies, such as pencils, markers, and crayons.

In order to stay undercover, agents often have to change how they look. And every agent knows that the best disguises are ones that do not attract attention. Sometimes a simple transformation, like changing the color of an article of clothing or putting on a pair of glasses, is enough to throw someone off your trail.

This activity should be done individually. Distribute the **Agent in Disguise** handouts and read the instructions aloud to the group. Explain to club members that they will be designing their own disguises. They should use the space on the sheet to draw or describe each component of their disguise. Have them label each piece of their disguise.

Good luck to you and your agents!

—The 39 Clues Book Club

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Agent Training
Lost in Translation

Hosts: Print this sheet. Then, cut out all ten strips and place them in a bowl for participants to choose at random.

✂

Often the best hiding place is right in front of your nose.

The Lucian sleuths are slinking through the sanctuary.

The Morse message isn't about the White House in Washington.

The Ekaterina correspondence is clearly confidential.

Watch your back. Guards and security cameras are everywhere.

The Tomas team tackled the tricky traitors.

I can't justify having Janus jugglers at the jamboree this June.

Mayday! The Madrigal mountaineers are marooned!

They're up to their old tricks. The hostages will not be released as promised.

Trust no one, especially the sneaky spies outside.

The Vespers are worse than pests.

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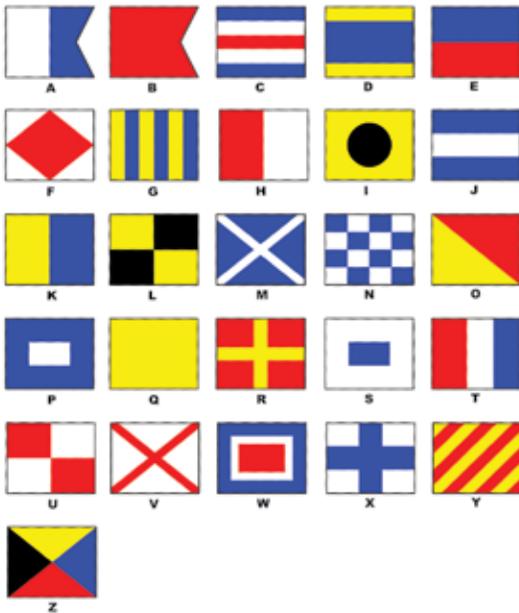
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**Agent Training
Crack the Code**

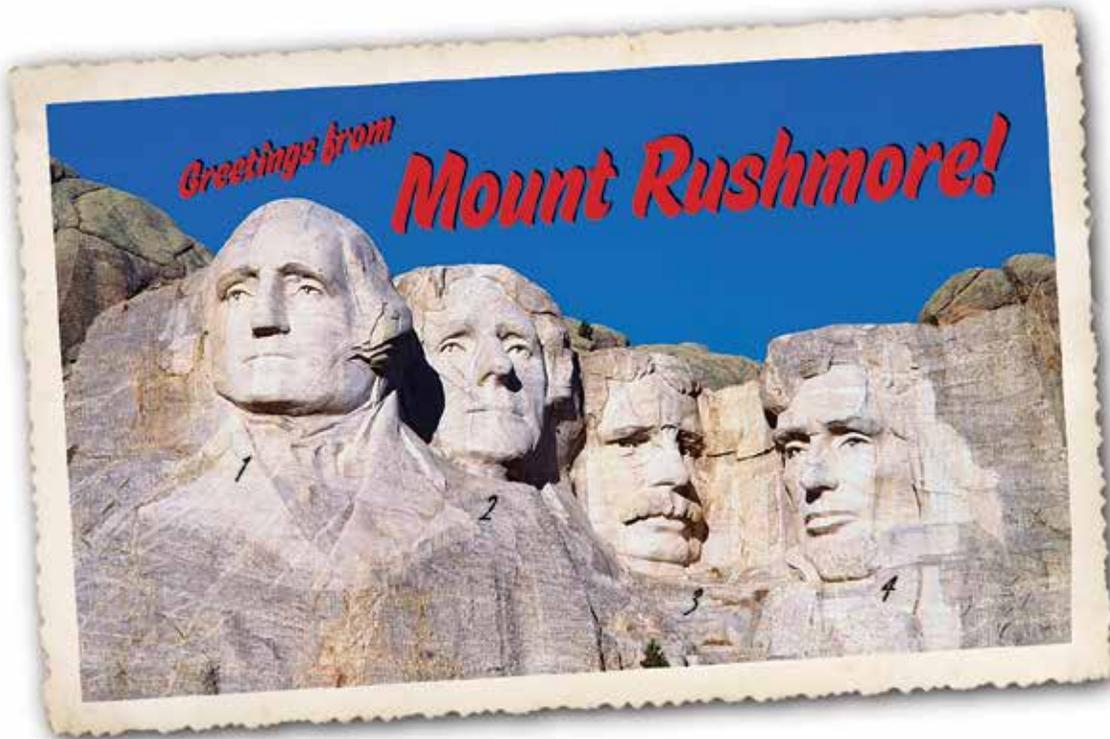
International signal flags are used at sea for ceremonial purposes or to communicate secretly. In this snapshot, flags are being used to spell out a top-secret message about Hamilton Holt.



What is Hamilton Holt's middle name?

**Agent Training
Hidden Presidents**

Take a look at this postcard from Mount Rushmore, a monument to four Cahill presidents. Read the hints and see if you can figure out which president belonged to which branch.



HINTS:

1. The Tomas and Ekaterina presidents are on the ends.
2. Jefferson is two spots to the left of Lincoln.
3. The Lucian president is to the right of Jefferson.
4. Washington is in the first spot.
5. The Janus president is next to Roosevelt.
6. Lincoln was not a Tomas.

Put a check mark in the four correct boxes.



Jefferson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lincoln	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Roosevelt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Washington	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Agent Training
Agent in Disguise

You're in a crowded train station and someone (most likely a Vesper) is following you. You've got to lose him—and fast! Turn the corner, and put on a disguise that will change your appearance. Use the space below to draw and/or describe your new look. Be sure to include and label every component you will need to complete your disguise.



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