



## 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!

This month's activities celebrate the first book in The 39 Clues Unstoppable series: *Nowhere to Run*. (Readers who haven't read that book yet will still enjoy these activities.) You and your club members will work hard to unravel the plot against the Cahills by their new archenemy, J. Rutherford Pierce. Follow the instructions below and use the associated reproducible handouts to help your club members build their Cahill skills with this month's theme: **A Game of Wits**.

### Activity 1 – Landslides & Ladders

**Prepare ahead: 1)** Print one copy of the **Landslides & Ladders** handout and supply one die for each group of five to eight club members. **2)** Collect (or have club members bring) small icons, such as acorns, pebbles, coins, etc., to use as game pieces.

Divide club members in to groups of five to eight people. Pass out the handouts and dice, one to each group. Have each club member select a small icon to use as his or her game piece. Read the introduction at the top of the handout aloud, then read the following instructions:

#### Landslides & Ladders

This is a game of speed and chance. Each player takes a turn rolling the die and moving his or her game piece that number of squares. If you land on a square with a ladder, you may "climb" to the top of that ladder. But watch out for the landslides! If you land on a square at the top of a landslide, your piece automatically slides down to the bottom and you have to work your way back up. First player to reach the top and escape from Pierce's goons wins!

### Activity 2 – A Riddle in Verse

**Prepare ahead: 1)** Print one copy of the **A Riddle in Verse** handout for each club member or pair of members. **2)** Provide pens and pencils.

Read the instructions on the handout aloud to the group. This activity can be done individually or in pairs.

Explain that each club member or group will construct a rhyming riddle poem of their own about one of the following topics: a famous Cahill from history, one of The 39 Clues characters, or an important (and memorable) place or item in the books. Encourage them to choose something easily recognizable (e.g., George Washington, Jonah Wizard, the serum, etc.) and not too obscure for other club members to identify. When they are finished, have them read their riddles aloud so others can guess. Remind members to put their Cahill ears on and listen closely for clues as each riddle is read aloud to them.

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## Activity 3 – Paparazzi Posters

**Prepare ahead:** 1) Print one copy of the **Paparazzi Posters** handout for each club member or group of members.  
2) Provide writing and coloring tools, such as pencils, pens, colored pencils, crayons, and markers.

This activity can be done individually or in groups of two or three. Pass out the handouts and read the introduction aloud.

Discuss what propaganda means: information that is spread to influence the way people think, to gain supporters, or to damage an opposing group; it is often incomplete or biased information. Point out that propaganda sometimes uses untrue or misleading headings or captions to make unrelated photos of the subject look good or bad, such as the misleading tabloid articles about Amy and Dan.

Explain that club members will be creating a poster based on pictures of Amy and Dan, and that they can choose to make the duo look great (and thereby combat Pierce’s propaganda), or ridiculous, depending on what they write. Encourage them to come up with snappy, catchy, witty headlines that paint the images in the light they want them to be seen.

—The 39 Clues Book Club

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