Dear Book Club Host:

Welcome to The 39 Clues Reading Club! You’re about to embark on an exciting global adventure in reading fun. Follow the instructions below and use the associated reproducible handouts to get your club members off to a strong start with the introductory theme: Establish Your Cahill Stronghold.

Be sure to download the following activity handouts from scholastic.com/39cluesclub:

Activity 1: Do You Have What It Takes to Be a Cahill?

Prepare ahead: 1) Photocopy CALLING ALL C AHILLS INTRODUCTORY LETTER and CAHILL BRANCH QUIZ handouts. 2) Gather supplies for creating nametags, including markers or crayons for decorating.

Part A
Hand out the CALLING ALL C AHILLS INTRODUCTORY LETTER and read aloud to your group. Then have kids pair up and quiz each other using the CAHILL BRANCH QUIZ sheet. Some kids may already know their branch; pair them with those who do not.

When partners are done quizzing each other, have them record each other’s answers. Two or more of the following letters per quiz means that child belongs to the corresponding branch:

M = Janus Branch  X = Ekaterina Branch  C = Tomas Branch  D = Lucian Branch

After everyone has been assigned a branch, have the kids complete and decorate nametags, listing their branch and using their branch colors.

Part B
For a whole-group icebreaker, ask kids to introduce themselves, state their branch of the Cahill family, and share one bit of trivia about themselves that demonstrates their connection to that particular branch. Have them refer to the introductory letter for branch attributes, if needed.
Activity 2: Cahill Stronghold Dossier

Distribute the STRONGHOLD DOSSIER sheets. Read the introduction and share the coordinates of your meeting location. Instruct children to discuss and decide on each item as a group. You may want to facilitate by asking for suggestions, recording them, and then conducting a vote. If your group is large, break them into small groups, charging each to come up with ideas and have representatives from each share the ideas for voting. Have kids draw an aerial view of the location.

Notable Stronghold Members – This is a chance for the group to work into their backstory any prominent figures that they believe were/are/should be members of their stronghold. Share any information you gathered about local historical figures or modern celebrities.

Activity 3: Operation Code Crack

Distribute the OPERATION CODE CRACK sheets. Read the introduction aloud and discuss the different types of codes, as well as any additional ideas that kids might have for variations on them. When all ideas have been heard, take a vote on the type of code your group will use. Once the code has been decided, allow kids time to practice using the code by translating their official stronghold motto (from STRONGHOLD DOSSIER handout).

Activity 4: The Key to a Stronghold Crest

Distribute the STRONGHOLD CREST sheet and read the introduction aloud. Ask for suggestions for each item at the top of the sheet, and decide on them as a group. Once all of the particulars are assigned, have kids work on decorating the crests by themselves, or allow them to take them home to complete.

If you are providing envelopes or folders, encourage your group members to decorate their folders using their completed crests and the Top Secret cut out.

Wrap Up Activity

Before the meeting ends make sure to tell kids to visit the39clues.com at home and add their official The 39 Clues Reading Club card and exclusive medal to their online gallery. They can use the following code to access: CLUEREADER

Enjoy the adventure!

—The 39 Clues