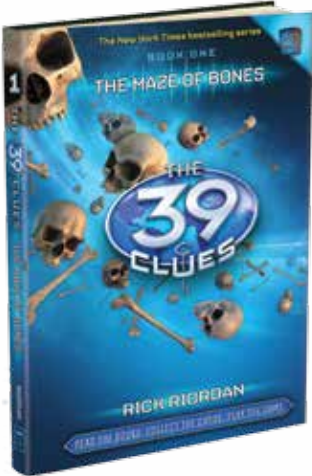


DISCUSSION GUIDE

The 39 Clues Book One: The Maze of Bones

Grades 3–6

MEETS
COMMON CORE
STATE
STANDARDS



The first installment of the *New York Times* bestselling series by Rick Riordan

After their grandmother dies, Amy and Dan Cahill discover that they are part of the most powerful family in history. The source of this power is hidden in 39 Clues scattered around the world. Amy, Dan, and other Cahills are given a choice: Take a million dollars and walk away, or compete to find all the Clues. The first Clue is somehow connected to Benjamin Franklin, but its location is a mystery.

Rick Riordan is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of the Percy Jackson and the Olympians series, the Kane Chronicles, and Heroes of Olympus books. He is also the author of the multi-award-winning Tres Navarre mystery series for adults.

For fifteen years, Rick taught English and history at public and private middle schools in the San Francisco Bay Area and in Texas. In 2002, Saint Mary's Hall honored him with the school's first Master Teacher Award.



Photo credit: Rebecca Riordan

Continue the adventure with Amy and Dan as they travel around the world on the Clue Hunt!



For Students: Students can start their own global Clue Hunt and connect with other readers at scholastic.com/The39Clues

For Educators: For more great multimedia resources for The 39 Clues, visit scholastic.com/TeachThe39Clues

scholastic.com/the39clues

DISCUSSION GUIDE

The 39 Clues Book One: The Maze of Bones

1. Why is *The Maze of Bones* an appropriate title for the first book in The 39 Clues series? Explain its significance to the story. (RL.1, 2; W.1)
2. All of the Cahills regard Amy and Dan as frontrunners in the hunt for the 39 Clues. Giving examples from *The Maze of Bones*, explain why these two seemingly normal kids pose such a threat to the rest of the Cahill clan and their search for the Clues. (RL.1, 2, 3; W.1, 2, 9)
3. Even though they are not physically present, Amy and Dan Cahill's parents play a big part in the hunt for the 39 Clues. Cite details from the book that reveal their involvement. (RL.1, 3; W.2)
4. Most of the chapters in *The Maze of Bones* are told from Amy's or Dan's point of view. Using specific examples from the book, explain how you think this structure either adds to or takes away from the story. (RL.5, 6; W.1, 2, 9)
5. Rick Riordan uses challenging vocabulary throughout *The Maze of Bones*. Look back through the book and make a list of ten words that are not commonly used in everyday language. Look up the definition of each word and then use each one in a sentence. (RL.4; W.7)
6. Ben Franklin is featured prominently throughout *The Maze of Bones*. Choose one of his inventions mentioned in the book and research its origins and how it works. Then write about your findings and how the invention pertains to the story. (RL. 2, 3; RI. 3; W.7, 9)
7. Describe the Cahill family crest and then compare and contrast the characteristics and legacy of the four different branches. (RL.1, 3; W.2)
8. Use examples from the book to explain how Amy and Dan complement each other and make a good team. (RL.1, 3; W.1)
9. Grace trusted William McIntyre, but Amy and Dan sometimes seem to be a little leery of him. Discuss how Mr. McIntyre's actions can be seen as both trustworthy and deceptive. (RL.1, 3; W.1)
10. The search for the 39 Clues promises to span the globe. List all of the places mentioned in *The Maze of Bones*, and find them on a map. Choose one of these locations, research its history, and write a visitor's guide that could be useful to Amy and Dan. (RL.1, 7; RI.7; W.7)
11. Use evidence from *The Maze of Bones* to explain what role the man in black plays, what you think his true identity is, and what his presence adds to the story. (RL.1, 3, 5; W.1, 2)
12. The members of the Cahill family come from diverse backgrounds. List all of the members who decided to participate in the search. Compare and contrast each character's unique traits and strategies for competing in the race. (RL.1, 3; W.2)
13. Fire is seen and referred to throughout *The Maze of Bones*. Discuss its significance both literally and figuratively throughout the story. (RL.1, 4; W.2)
14. One of the major themes in *The Maze of Bones* is loyalty. Use evidence from the book to explain how this theme develops over the course of the story. (RL.1, 2, 3; W.1)

How to Use This Guide

The Anchor Standards used in this guide refer to the Common Core State Standards of English Language Arts and Literacy 5-12, under the main strands of Reading Literature (RL), Reading Informational Text (RI), and Writing (W).

The activities and discussion questions fully support teaching to the following Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts. Look after each question for the Standard abbreviation, and then match it to the specific Standard to which it correlates.

Reading Literature

Key Ideas and Details
RL.1, RL.2, RL.3

Craft and Structure
RL.4, RL.5, RL.6

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas
RL.7

Anchor Standards for Reading Informational Text

Key Ideas and Details
RI.3

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas
RI.7

Writing Standards for Literature

Text Type and Purposes
W.1, W.2

Research to Build and Present Knowledge
W.7, W.9

This guide was written by Mary Kate Doman, Children's and Young Adult Book Consultant, Author, and Professor.