



A G.A.T.E.WAYS JOURNEY

for gifted Year 3 and 4 children

with a love of challenge and intrigue

'The Mystery of the Missing Link'

G.A.T.E.WAYS is an independent organization offering challenging and enriching activities and experiences to develop and extend highly able children. This *JOURNEY* will run over four mornings.

Amy and Dan Cahill are on a quest to become the most powerful people in the world and to find out what is unique about the Madrigals. They can trust no one as they race against other branches of their own family who are intent on hindering them at every turn. Using the well-known original series of books *The 39 Clues*, and Amy and Dan's quest as a foundation, this Journey will have students creating their own 'Family Branches' and racing on their own mission to find a 'Missing Link'.

Come and join us on this quest as we race around the world from Egypt to China and from Australia to France trying to collect enough clues to solve the mystery! Along the way, Branches will need to accumulate points. You'll be guided by a **Mystery Link File** that will contain challenges of varying levels of difficulty. Remember to TRUST NO ONE, especially the 'man in black', as he might send you off in the wrong direction! A final WORD – could the Missing Link relate to how things work the best, and what brings the best out of everyone?

Session One – Which Branch Will I Join?

We'll begin by analysing *The 39 Clues Case Dossier* that children will have read prior to the program, and see how each Family Branch in the series operates. You will discover more about the goal and the rules of our quest and how the various levels of challenge activities will enable you to earn points as well as clues to the next stage of your Journey BUT BEWARE! There will be tricks and traps along the way that could result in you losing valuable points and falling behind the other Branches! You will solve a question to uncover a colour code that will determine which 'Family Branch' you will belong to. Members of each branch will come together to create a name, a family crest, their unique method of operation and a fatal flaw. Will your efforts earn you enough points so that your quest can begin, or will you be sent back to the drawing board? Will you be dealt a dose of bad news, that your branch will have to accommodate? Good luck!

Session Two – The Quest Begins – Introducing the Mystery Link File

Today you head off on your quest. All branches are now organised and ready to go! You'll go head to head as you select challenges graded in difficulty from the **Mystery Link File**. These will include cracking codes, solving mysteries, analysing historical and geographical data, solving maths problems and more! Correct solutions will allow your branch to collect much needed points and clues. You will also have the opportunity to trick opposing branches by devising your own maths challenge! Towards the end of the session each Branch will be allocated a brief guided research project on one of the key historical site drawn from *The 39 Clues* series (eg the great Pyramids, the Catacombs of Paris, the Great Wall of China and Uluru) to be planned and then completed for the next session. Will your branch demonstrate sufficient teamwork and organisational skills to meet this challenge?

Session Three – The Man in Black

Each Branch will have time to consolidate their dossier of information collected on their research project before presenting it to the rest of the group. The 'man in black' will interrogate each 'Family Branch' on their level of understanding and analysis. He will test you on insight and application! If you pass, he may uncover a new clue about your Branch! Each Branch will then create a visual representation of their area of research to test and baffle other Branches. Valuable points will be up for grabs, so all attention and great notetaking will be called for!

Session Four – The Missing Link

Is the end of our quest in sight? As we get closer, there is one major challenge that we need to meet! Today your branch will enter the laboratory to complete a series of experiments from the **Missing Link File**. By exploring the chemistry of colour, density and chemical reactions using a secret liquid you might just uncover the final critical clues. By this stage in the quest, you will have collected clues, facts, figures, secret information, and decoded messages. As soon as your points goal is reached, the race will be on between branches to put all your information together to finally discover the mystery missing link. Will your Branch get to celebrate a fabulous triumph?

Preparation and Homework: It is expected that students will have read at least two from the twelve books from the original series of *The 39 Clues*, and have completed the brief emailed Case Dossier before the first session. There will be some homework between sessions. The first book in the original series is *The Maze of Bones*.

What to bring to each session: The presenter asks that students bring a well-stocked pencil case with grey leaded pencils, sharpener, eraser, colour pencils, scissors, glue and a folder to keep their items together to each session. Also bring a snack (no nuts please). A branch notebook will be provided by the presenter.

Presenter

Annette Subhani has been involved in education for over two decades, and has worked with G.A.T.E.WAYS for over eight years. A person of varied life experience, she has a passion and desire to contribute to the character development of children from an early age, as she believes this helps to build a community of motivated, responsible and caring individuals. Central to building this capacity she believes is engaging children in meaningful learning that relates to 'real-life' and engages students in cooperative action and the use of higher level thinking skills. She challenges children to relate insights and learning from across the curriculum to assist them in contributing to a global community. She has a love of history, reading and literature, maths, story-telling, the arts and living life.