

Gisterhood Gleanths

Outreach Program

- Facilitator's Guide
- Student Empowerment Worksheets



Chapter 11

Exploring the Tunnels (Facilitator Narrative)

1. Chapter Overview

Before dawn, Chloe, Lily, and the team venture beneath Upland High into ancient tunnels once built by the Chaffey brothers. The underground labyrinth hides a web of history and mystery—old ledgers from The Olive House, faded carvings, and relics from the city’s past. As they descend deeper, the group faces a choice between a lighted path leading to safety and a dark, uncharted route that might hold answers. Choosing courage over comfort, they uncover an iron door engraved with protective runes. Inside lies a locked chest containing documents, a map, and a mysterious black orb—possibly a fragment of the Obsidian Eye. The discovery sparks both awe and fear. The team realizes the Eye’s fragments could lead to Mt. Baldy and The Olive House, hinting that The Society’s power extends far beyond Upland. The mission is no longer about clues—it’s about survival, truth, and stopping something ancient from awakening.

2. Core Life Lessons

- Curiosity and Courage: True discovery comes from venturing into the unknown.
- Teamwork and Trust: Every member’s unique skill contributes to survival and success.
- History and Responsibility: Understanding the past helps prevent its mistakes.
- Critical Thinking: Not every path of light leads to safety—sometimes the truth hides in the dark.

3. Character Focus

Chloe – The steady leader, balancing intellect with bravery.

Lily – Fearless and witty, she shows how curiosity sparks progress.

Gil – The strategist—protective, analytical, and quietly loyal.

Arthur Wren – Represents historical passion; reminds others that knowledge is sacred.

Mrs. Greene – Wise guide, connecting Upland’s hidden history to The Society’s legacy.

4. Learning Discussion Prompts

1. Why does Chloe choose the darker tunnel, and what does this decision represent?
2. What does the discovery of the orb suggest about The Society’s power?
3. How does Lily’s lockpicking moment reflect confidence and resourcefulness?
4. What can we learn from how each team member reacts to danger?
5. Why is curiosity both powerful and risky in this chapter?

5. Connection to Real Life

This chapter encourages teens to think critically, take smart risks, and value cooperation. It illustrates how bravery often involves curiosity—asking questions others avoid. It also connects to real-world research and innovation, where discovery always carries ethical responsibility.

6. Suggested Activities

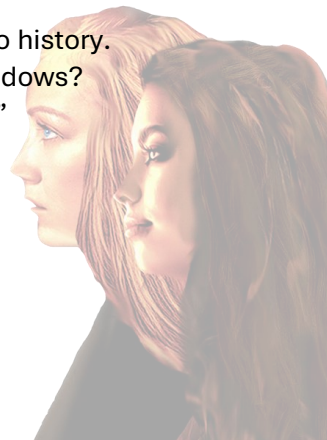
- Tunnel Blueprint Project: Students sketch or digitally design an underground map showing hidden chambers and escape routes.
- Artifact Analysis: Bring a small “mystery object” and let groups invent a backstory linking it to history.
- Light vs. Dark Debate: Discuss symbolic meaning—why might truth sometimes lie in the shadows?
- Cipher Hunt: Hide coded clues in the classroom leading to a “fragment of the Obsidian Eye.”

7. Song Connection

Song: “Whispers of the Forgotten”

Lyric tie-in: “Beneath the quiet lies the truth that time refused to bury.”

The song mirrors the chapter’s themes of discovery, courage, and uncovering lost knowledge.



Student Worksheet – Ages 10–12



Writing / Reflection

1. Why did Chloe and Lily choose the darker tunnel?
2. What do you think the black orb really is?



Multiple Choice / Quick Response

- Who built the tunnels beneath Upland? (a) The Chaffey brothers
- What did the team find inside the chest? (b) A map, documents, and a black orb
- What does Chloe plan to do next? (c) Visit Mt. Baldy and The Olive House



Puzzle / Cipher Exercise

Hidden Word Puzzle: Find 3 words that describe the team: BRAVE, CURIOUS, UNITED.



Song Connection

Whispers of the Forgotten – 'Beneath the quiet lies the truth that time refused to bury.'

How does courage help you explore things that seem scary or new?



Student Worksheet – Ages 13–15



Writing / Reflection

1. What does choosing the darker tunnel symbolize for the team?
2. How does Lily's lockpicking scene show independence and trust?



Multiple Choice / Quick Response

- What does Arthur discover about the carvings on the iron door? (a) They are protective runes meant to conceal secrets
- What is unusual about the orb Gil finds? (b) It glows softly in the dark
- What do the red circles on the map mark? (c) Sites connected to The Society's plans



Puzzle / Cipher Exercise

Cipher Message (A=1, B=2): 3-15-21-18-1-7-5 9-14 20-8-5 4-1-18-11

→ COURAGE IN THE DARK.



Song Connection

Whispers of the Forgotten – 'Beneath the quiet lies the truth that time refused to bury.'

Why is discovery often found in difficult or uncertain places?



Student Worksheet – Ages 16–18



Writing / Reflection

1. How does the tunnel exploration reflect the team’s psychological journey from fear to unity?
2. What ethical implications come with uncovering ancient artifacts tied to power?



Multiple Choice / Quick Response

- Why does Chloe’s decision matter symbolically? (a) It represents choosing truth over comfort
- What deeper meaning does the black orb carry? (b) A fragment of knowledge that could save or destroy
- What does this chapter reveal about The Society’s roots? (c) Their power is woven through history and industry



Puzzle / Cipher Exercise

Cipher Riddle: “I am buried yet breathing, silent yet strong. I guard both history and wrong.”

→ THE TUNNELS.



Song Connection

Whispers of the Forgotten – 'Beneath the quiet lies the truth that time refused to bury.'

What lessons do hidden histories teach us about courage and truth?

