

Gisterhood Gleanings

Outreach Program

- Facilitator's Guide
- Student Empowerment Worksheets



Chapter 16

Trials and Trust (Facilitator Narrative)

1. Chapter Overview

In this pivotal chapter, the Sisterhood Sleuths face the Trial of Stones — a test of courage, teamwork, and endurance. Trapped beneath the mountain, they must rely on each other’s instincts to survive the shifting tunnels and ancient traps. Their bond is tested as secrets emerge and loyalty is questioned, but through unity and determination, they rediscover what trust truly means. By the end, the team learns that their shared strength lies not in perfection, but in faith — both in themselves and in one another.

2. Core Life Lessons

- Endurance Through Unity: Great challenges are overcome together, not alone.
- Leadership in Uncertainty: Courage means guiding others when the path isn’t clear.
- Faith After Betrayal: Trust rebuilt is stronger than trust untested.
- The Power of the Future: The past cannot define what comes next — our choices can.

3. Character Focus

Chloe – Balances logic and heart, showing quiet leadership through crisis.

Gil – Uses strategy and composure to protect the group, even when hope fades.

Lily – Learns that courage isn’t loud; it’s steady.

Thalia – Brings humor and humanity into the darkest spaces.

Seraphine – Faces suspicion but earns respect through bravery and selflessness.

4. Learning Discussion Prompts

1. What does the Trial of Stones represent for the Sleuths emotionally?
2. How does Chloe demonstrate leadership during danger?
3. Why is it important to rebuild trust after betrayal?
4. What role does teamwork play in survival?
5. How do the Sleuths prove that the future truly is theirs to shape?

5. Connection to Real Life

This chapter symbolizes the challenges that test friendships, trust, and perseverance. Students can reflect on times when teamwork or forgiveness helped them overcome obstacles. It reinforces that no matter how difficult the past may be, the choices we make today define our future.

6. Suggested Activities

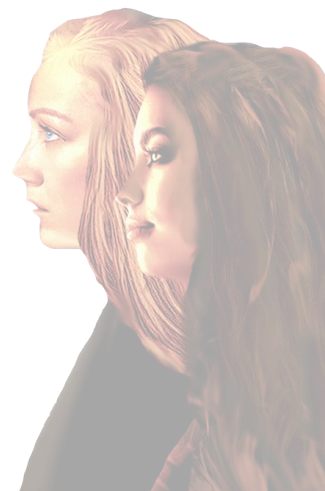
- Trial of Stones Challenge 🧩: Students complete a series of team puzzles symbolizing courage, logic, and communication.
- Courage Compass: Each student creates a personal compass labeling four values that guide their decisions.
- The Trust Rebuild: In small groups, students share what trust means to them and create a visual symbol (drawing, collage, or word cloud).
- Cipher of Courage: Encode an inspiring message using a substitution cipher, then trade with a classmate to decode.

7. Song Connection

Song: “The Future Is Yours”

Lyric tie-in: “The past can’t change—but the future’s yours.”

This song inspires resilience and forward movement. It encourages students to believe that they have the power to rewrite their story no matter what trials they’ve faced.



Student Worksheet – Ages 10–12



Writing / Reflection

1. What was the Trial of Stones? How did the team work together to solve it?
2. What does this chapter teach about believing in yourself?



Multiple Choice / Quick Response

- Who helped calm the team when the stones began to fall? (a) Chloe
- What lesson did they learn from the trial? (b) Teamwork makes them stronger
- What does 'The Future Is Yours' mean? (c) You can shape what happens next



Puzzle / Cipher Exercise

Puzzle: Unscramble T U F R E U

→ FUTURE.

What can you do today that helps your future self?



Song Connection

The Future Is Yours – 'The past can't change—but the future's yours.'

How can you make tomorrow better by learning from today?



Student Worksheet – Ages 13–15



Writing / Reflection

1. How did the Trial of Stones challenge each Sleuth differently?
2. Why is forgiveness important in rebuilding trust within the group?



Multiple Choice / Quick Response

- What was the real purpose of the Trial of Stones? (a) To test their unity and courage
- What lesson does Seraphine teach the team? (b) Redemption is earned through actions
- Why does Chloe tell the group 'We can't go back, only forward'? (c) Because their choices shape the future



Puzzle / Cipher Exercise

Cipher Code (A=1, B=2): 6–21–20–21–18–5

→ FUTURE. Decode it and write how you want your future to look.



Song Connection

The Future Is Yours – 'The past can't change—but the future's yours.'

What decision could you make that helps your future self?



Student Worksheet – Ages 16–18



Writing / Reflection

1. How does this chapter explore the idea of destiny versus choice?
2. What does the Trial of Stones symbolize about leadership and accountability?



Multiple Choice / Quick Response

- Why does Gil's composure matter during the trial? (a) It shows emotional control in crisis
- What does the phrase 'the future is yours' encourage? (b) Ownership of one's path despite past mistakes
- How does this trial reflect the human experience of struggle and hope? (c) We grow stronger by enduring hardship together



Puzzle / Cipher Exercise

Riddle Cipher: "I am shaped by choices, not chains of the past."

→ FUTURE.



Song Connection

The Future Is Yours – 'The past can't change—but the future's yours.'

How can reflection on past trials make you a better leader?

