

Gisterhood Gleanths

Outreach Program

- Facilitator's Guide
- Student Empowerment Worksheets



Chapter 17

Shadows of the Past (Facilitator Narrative)

1. Chapter Overview

After a tremor shakes the underground, the Sisterhood Sleuths uncover glowing inscriptions that point toward a deeper chamber beneath the Madonna of the Trail. As danger closes in, Yuki makes a courageous choice to hold off The Society so the team can continue. Her last transmission cuts out mid-sentence, leaving the group shaken but resolute. Chloe, Thalia, and Seraphine descend a spiral staircase to a vast obsidian-lined hall, where a fragment—another ‘key’—awaits. This chapter balances grief and purpose: the sleuths choose to honor sacrifice by pressing on.

2. Core Life Lessons

- **Courage Through Sacrifice:** Sometimes bravery means choosing others’ safety over our own.
- **Purpose in the Dark:** Loss can clarify mission and strengthen resolve.
- **Seeing in Contrasts:** Truth often emerges where light and shadow meet.
- **Leadership Under Grief:** Real leaders feel deeply and still move forward.

3. Character Focus

Chloe – Channels grief into purpose; models calm, ethical leadership.

Yuki – Embodies selfless courage; her choice galvanizes the team.

Thalia – Balances fear with humor and loyalty, keeping spirits steady.

Seraphine – Earns trust through action; her insight helps interpret the inscriptions.

4. Learning Discussion Prompts

1. What does Yuki’s decision reveal about courage and loyalty?
2. How does Chloe lead in a moment of fear and grief?
3. Why is “truth in light and shade” a meaningful idea for this chapter?
4. How do the sleuths honor sacrifice without losing hope?
5. When have you had to move forward despite uncertainty?

5. Connection to Real Life

Teens navigate complex emotions—loss, fear, responsibility—especially when friends or family face challenges. This chapter shows how to honor difficult feelings, ask for help, and keep going with purpose. It encourages emotional intelligence: noticing contrasts (light/shadow) in our own stories to find truth.

6. Suggested Activities

- **Shadows & Light Reflection** 🎨: Create a shaded sketch or poem that shows how truth can emerge from both light and darkness.
- **Signal of Courage:** Write a short radio/phone transcript of Yuki’s last clear message—what wisdom does she leave the team?
- **Ethics in Action:** Small-group debate—When (if ever) is self-sacrifice the right choice? Define boundaries of safety and care.
- **Inscription Cipher:** Design a symbol-based code and exchange with a partner to decode a hopeful message.

7. Song Connection

Song: “Silent Canvas”

Lyric tie-in: “The truth is painted in light and shade.”

This track mirrors the chapter’s emotional contrasts—fear and courage, loss and purpose—and invites reflection on how perspective reveals truth.



Student Worksheet – Ages 10–12



Writing / Reflection

1. Why was the team worried about Yuki? What did she choose to do?
2. How did Chloe help everyone stay calm and hopeful?



Multiple Choice / Quick Response

- What did the glowing markings help the team do? (a) Find the next chamber
- Who stayed behind to protect the others? (b) Yuki
- What did the sleuths find in the hall? (c) An obsidian fragment key



Puzzle / Cipher Exercise

Puzzle: Fill the missing letters — L _ G H T / S H _ D E
→ LIGHT / SHADE. Write one truth you learned from this chapter.



Song Connection

Silent Canvas – 'The truth is painted in light and shade.'
How can both happy and sad moments teach us truth?



Student Worksheet – Ages 13–15



Writing / Reflection

1. What does Yuki's sacrifice reveal about bravery and friendship?
2. How does the idea of 'truth in light and shade' relate to dealing with grief or fear?



Multiple Choice / Quick Response

- Why does Chloe choose to continue the mission? (a) To honor sacrifice with purpose
- What do the inscriptions symbolize? (b) Guidance that appears in darkness
- What is the fragment's role? (c) It is a key linked to activating the Eye



Puzzle / Cipher Exercise

Cipher Code (A=1): 20-18-21-20-8 9-14 12-9-7-8-20 1-14-4 19-8-1-4-5
→ TRUTH IN LIGHT AND SHADE.



Song Connection

Silent Canvas – 'The truth is painted in light and shade.'

Describe a time when mixed emotions helped you understand a situation better.



Student Worksheet – Ages 16–18



Writing / Reflection

1. Analyze sacrifice in this chapter: When is self-sacrifice ethical, and what limits should leaders set?
2. How does Chloe balance empathy with decisive leadership under uncertainty?



Multiple Choice / Quick Response

- What does the spiral descent symbolize? (a) Moving inward toward difficult truths
- Why is 'truth in contrasts' a powerful investigative lens? (b) It resists simple answers and honors complexity
- What motivates the team after Yuki's transmission ends? (c) Duty transformed by grief into purpose



Puzzle / Cipher Exercise

Riddle Cipher: "I exist between clarity and doubt; I reveal by contrast, not by glare."
→ PERSPECTIVE.



Song Connection

Silent Canvas – 'The truth is painted in light and shade.'
How can leaders use contrasting viewpoints to reach wiser decisions?

