

Gisterhood Gleanings

Outreach Program

- Facilitator's Guide
- Student Empowerment Worksheets



Chapter 1

The Unexpected Invitation (Facilitator Narrative)

1. Chapter Overview

On a quiet autumn afternoon, sisters Chloe and Lily Hastings discover an elegant envelope on their doorstep. The invitation inside—written in gold—invites them to the mysterious Gala at Sycamore Estates. While Lily’s curiosity sparks excitement, Chloe’s caution warns danger. The sisters debate whether to attend, each seeing the event through different eyes: one filled with wonder, the other with worry. Their decision to investigate marks the beginning of an adventure that will change everything.

2. Core Life Lessons

- **Courage & Curiosity:** Curiosity drives discovery, but courage ensures you act wisely.
- **Trust & Teamwork:** Opposite personalities—one cautious, one daring—create balance.
- **Facing the Unknown:** Growth happens when we step into uncertainty.
- **Observation & Logic:** Every mystery begins with paying attention to details.

3. Character Focus

Chloe – Analytical and logical; learns to embrace adventure without losing caution.

Lily – Imaginative and fearless; learns that curiosity needs preparation and foresight.

Together, they show that discovery requires both heart and mind.

4. Learning Discussion Prompts

1. Why does Chloe hesitate to open the invitation?
2. What makes Lily excited about the unknown?
3. How do the sisters balance each other’s personalities?
4. Why is curiosity important for solving mysteries?
5. What can we learn about taking risks and preparing wisely?

5. Connection to Real Life

We all face our own “mystery invitations.” They might be new opportunities, friendships, or challenges. Sometimes, fear whispers don’t go, while curiosity says see what happens. This chapter teaches students to weigh their instincts, plan carefully, and trust teamwork when facing the unknown.

6. Suggested Activities

- **Journal Prompt:** Write about a time curiosity led you somewhere unexpected.
- **Classroom Debate:** Is it better to be cautious like Chloe or adventurous like Lily?
- **Creative Project:** Design your own mysterious invitation to a secret event—include clues, riddles, or symbols.
- **Cipher Challenge:** Create a code message revealing a positive trait about yourself (e.g., Courage = 3-15-21-18-1-7-5).
- **Teamwork Game:** Pair up as “logic” and “intuition” to solve a simple mystery puzzle.

7. Song Connection

Song: “Sisterhood Sleuths: The Obsidian Eye”

Lyric tie-in: “The clues are calling, the world’s in disguise—truth hides behind familiar eyes.”

Connection: The song reflects the excitement and fear of entering a mystery with courage and partnership.



Student Worksheet – Ages 10–12



Writing / Reflection

1. What would you do if you found a strange invitation at your door?
2. Why do you think Chloe and Lily make a good team?



Multiple Choice / Quick Response

- What do Chloe and Lily find on their doorstep? (a) A mysterious envelope
- Why does Lily want to go to the gala? (b) She loves adventure
- What lesson does Chloe learn? (c) It's okay to be curious but careful



Puzzle / Cipher Exercise

Decode the Message: A=1, B=2, C=3 ... 20-8-5 3-21-18-9-15-21-19 12-5-1-4-19 20-8-5 23-1-25

→ THE CURIOUS LEADS THE WAY.



Song Connection

Sisterhood Sleuths: The Obsidian Eye – 'Every question lights a spark inside.'

What does it mean to have a spark of curiosity?



Student Worksheet – Ages 13–15



Writing / Reflection

1. Have you ever faced a choice between safety and adventure? What did you do?
2. How do Chloe and Lily's personalities balance each other's strengths and weaknesses?



Multiple Choice / Quick Response

- What does the invitation symbolize? (a) A call to adventure
- Why is Chloe nervous about the gala? (b) She senses it might be dangerous
- What agreement do the sisters make? (c) To investigate—but with caution



Puzzle / Cipher Exercise

Hidden Word Challenge: R I O S U T Y C U

→ CURIOSITY.



Song Connection

Sisterhood Sleuths: The Obsidian Eye – 'Truth hides behind familiar eyes.'

What hidden truths do you think Chloe and Lily will find by trusting each other?



Student Worksheet – Ages 16–18



Writing / Reflection

1. How do curiosity and caution represent two sides of human intelligence?
2. Discuss a time you ignored your intuition—what did you learn?



Multiple Choice / Quick Response

- Why does Chloe hesitate to open the letter? (a) She fears it could be dangerous or deceptive
- What does Lily's reaction reveal about her worldview? (b) She sees mystery as opportunity
- What underlying theme begins in this chapter? (c) The balance between logic and faith



Puzzle / Cipher Exercise

Cipher Riddle: "I open doors to wonder, but I close them to fear. Without me, truth stays hidden. What am I?"
→ CURIOSITY.



Song Connection

Sisterhood Sleuths: The Obsidian Eye – 'The clues are calling, the world's in disguise.'

How does this lyric speak to the courage required to explore both the world and yourself?

