

HYACINTH

and the

SECRETS BENEATH

EVENT KIT

A Book Stack Treasure Hunt
to Introduce the Series



ABOUT THE EVENT KIT

This event kit is designed not only to introduce readers to the middle grade series that *Booklist* called a “wild ride that’s fun, freaky, outlandish, and suspenseful,” but also to introduce readers to the layout of your library or bookstore. **Perfect for book clubs or tween events!**



In the first book in the series, Hyacinth, who recently moved to London, makes a near-fatal mistake when she tries to fix her own plumbing. Plumbing? Yes, indeed. It turns out there are magical rivers flowing under London, and what looks like bad plumbing is actually protection against powerful magical forces. Who knew?

Hyacinth (led by her irksome and mysterious neighbor Lady Roslyn) must descend into the underground rivers to capture the magical drop of water she has unwittingly unleashed. Why *must* she? Because the drop of water could ignite the next Great Fire of London, and because her mother is being held hostage by the Royal Mail until she returns it. Sound madcap? It is! Deliciously so! Add to the madcap peril that those magical rivers flow through the London sewers, and you get a bit of middle grade gross added to the rollicking adventure. In the sewers, Hyacinth meets a whole cast of intriguing characters including a literate pig in a swimsuit who communicates through words printed on small cards (which you will see scattered throughout this kit).

So how to introduce readers to the first book in this series? We have created an event kit that (we hope) is equally madcap. With the elements of this kit, your readers will:

1. Discover they have magic in their bloodline.
2. Divide into teams sporting top hats. (Top hats keep ideas from floating away).
3. Sign a contract that they will go down into the sewers and retrieve the lost drop of water.
4. Grip a magical umbrella to transform the winding London sewers into the aisles between your book cases.
5. Search under sewer bricks (magically transformed into books) for clues to finding the magical water.
6. Follow nine clues until they come across bottles of water labeled, “Genuine London Sewer Water.”
7. Turn in the water (and be asked to drink it) to fulfill their contract.
8. Receive a thank you from the city of London and access to a free audio clip of the book’s opening.

The kit includes:

1. Preparation steps and sample dialogue.
2. Marketing copy and poster.
3. Costume and prop elements.
4. Customizable clues.

ABOUT THE BOOK

Hyacinth and the Secrets Beneath

By Jacob Sager Weinstein

Series: Hyacinth Series, #1

Published by Random House Children's Books

ISBN-13: 9780399553172

Lexile: 810L

Age Range: 8 - 12 Years



Magic is real. History is a big, fat lie.

Before Hyacinth Hayward moves from Illinois to London, she reads up on the city's history. Too bad for her. Because the books are wrong. The truth is, London was built on magical rivers, and all the major events in its past have been about people trying to control the magic. Hyacinth discovers this when her mom is kidnapped. In the chase to get her back, Hyacinth encounters a giant intelligent pig in a bathing suit, a boy with amnesia, an adorable tosher (whatever that is), a sarcastic old lady, and a very sketchy unicorn. Somehow Hyacinth has to figure out who to trust, so she can save her mom and, oh yeah, not cause a second Great Fire of London.

“The action is nonstop from the moment the protagonist's mother is abducted to the ending, which leaves the door open for a sequel. With plot twists and potty humor galore, this is an entertaining read-aloud that should keep even reluctant readers engaged. VERDICT Fans of Suzanne Collins's ‘The Underland Chronicles’ and Roderick Gordon and Brian Williams's ‘Tunnels’ series will enjoy this fantastic, funny adventure.”
—*School Library Journal*

“This setup can't help leading to a rollicking adventure with a lulu of an ending that comes with the promise of a sequel. Middle graders will adore clever Hyacinth and enjoy the other humorous characters, the puns (Oaroboarus, indeed), and the suspenseful narrative.”
—*Kirkus Reviews*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

JACOB SAGER WEINSTEIN has written for the *New Yorker*, *McSweeney's*, HBO, and the BBC. He lives in London with his family, close to where the Westbourne flows underground, but he only rarely triggers magical catastrophes that could potentially destroy the city. He apologizes in advance for any Great Fires this may cause. His website is www.jacobsagerweinstein.com, and he is @jacobsaw on Twitter.

SHARE THE EVENT

You are absolutely grand at promoting your events. See if the following tools might be helpful.

___ SoundCloud has an audiobook excerpt of the book. The player can be embedded onto a web page or blog post, or shared in social media. The book is rather compelling read aloud! Look for it at: <https://soundcloud.com/penguin-audio/hyacinth-and-the-secrets>

___ If you list your events in newsletters and/or online calendars, here is some text that may help with those listings:

Readers wanted for an adventure in London! The Tower of London? Big Ben? Well...no, this is more of an *underground* adventure. Please be advised that we there may be dangerous bursts of magic, staggering monsters, unpredictable unicorns, and countless other perils. Come with us, test your magical abilities, and be introduced to the rollicking London-based fantasy series that begins with **Hyacinth and the Secrets Beneath** by Jacob Sager Weinstein (Random House Children's Books). All welcome, but best for ages 8-13.

___ If this event is for the public, print out the event poster (page 12), add your date, time, and location, and duplicate it to advertise the event. If you prefer to adapt the poster on your computer, you can find a JPEG of the poster design on CuriousCityDPW.com. Simply search for “hyacinth” and navigate to the treasure hunt listing. The fonts on the poster are CANCIONE ITC and **LFH WHISTLER REGULAR**.



READY TO PREPARE?

There are lots of details to this event. We have soaked the game play with references to the book. The next pages take you step-by-step through prep. You can skip ahead to GAME PLAY on pages 9-11, as that has the dialogue and story that will make all the pieces of the game jell!

PREPARE THE STAFF

___ The leader of the event is modeled after the character Lady Roslyn. Roslyn is a slightly snarky and rather mysterious older British woman. On pages 9-11, we provide sample dialogue for your Lady Roslyn.

___ The Royal Mail regulates magic in London, and a Royal Mail clerk will play a role in the game's conclusion. Select a staff member or volunteer to play the clerk. Show the volunteer the suggested script on page 8. S/he will get to hissssss her/his ssssss's!

PREPARE SIMPLE COSTUMES

___ Several of the characters in the book wear top hats to keep thoughts from slipping away. You can bring readers into play mode by ordering plastic or paper top hats for them to sport. You will need one hat for each expected player. Oriental Trading Company and Amazon both carry a set of 12 hats for under \$10.

___ Print the Hat Medallions on page 13. Trim and affix the medallions so you have equal numbers of Egalitarian (hat image) and Inheritors of Order (urn/upside-down Sherlock Holmes image) hats.

___ Consider locating a visor for the Royal Mail clerk. We like the “Tennis Beach Colored Plastic Clear Sun Bingo Vegas Dealer Golf Visor Hat Cap” (that’s a mouthful) for \$8.00 available at Amazon.

___ Print a Royal Mail band on page 14 and affix it to the Royal Mail clerk’s visor.

COLLECT PROPS

___ In the novel, gripping an umbrella can magically transform a stinky sewer into a beautiful river. Collect enough umbrellas for each expected player to protect themselves from the sewers you will be sending them into.

___ In the book, Hyacinth gets her umbrella magically charged at the London Underground Lost Property Office. Print “London Underground Lost Property Office” sign on page 14 to attach to your box/container of umbrellas.

___ In the book, Hyacinth’s mother is captured by the Royal Mail to ensure that Hyacinth will go into the sewers and locate the magical water. We have created a contract for your players that tells them that a member of their family is being held by the Royal Mail and will be released at the game’s conclusion. Print the Contract on page 15 and consider setting aside clipboards to make those contracts more “official.” The contract reads:

I, _____, do hereby pledge to return the lost drop of water to the nearest Royal Mail office by midnight. Upon the drop’s return and destruction, the Royal Mail will promptly return _____ to your home. (name of your favorite family member or friend)

The Royal Mail will do its best to assist you by leaving clues beneath bricks in the sewers. As you are unaccustomed to the river of human waste that you will encounter, we have also arranged for the tunnels to look like aisles of book cases and the sewage-encrusted bricks to appear as books. To ensure that this magical illusion stays in place, please locate an umbrella and keep a firm grip on it.

The Royal Mail is not responsible for any horrors you might encounter in the sewers nor the terrible danger that you will most certainly be in.

Hyacinth and the Secrets Beneath: A Book Stack Treasure Hunt to Introduce the Series

___ To simulate players going down a manhole into the sewers, you might consider creating a manhole-sized circle with tape or paper at the start line of your event. Create one for each of the two teams.

___ The players are headed into the sewers to find the dangerous drop of water that has been let loose. The water they discover will be small bottles of water with custom labels. Print water bottle labels for 8 oz. bottles on page 16. Labels read:

Genuine London Sewer Water

Caution: May contain a drop of extremely dangerous magic.

Please Return to your local Royal Mail for your Deposit
(or the return of beloved family or friend.)

___ Pick up 8 oz. bottles of water. Get enough bottles for each expected player. Affix the Genuine London Sewer Water labels to them. Poland Springs makes the perfect size.

PREPARE THE CLUES & TREASURE HUNT

The game play will be a series of nine clues for each team. The first clue will be handed to the team at the start and the other eight clues will be hidden within books in your collection. One clue leads to another until the players arrive at bottles of “Genuine London Sewer Water.”

Each clue has a quote from **Hyacinth and the Secrets Beneath** and an invitation to follow the path of the sewers (the aisles of your library or bookstore) to find the book the clue features. The actual book is flexible, so you can choose which book in your collection the clue connects to. There is a blank space on the clue for you to add a call number, author, or other hint to the clue’s location.

___ Print and prepare the clues for each team on pages 18-36.

___ Because one card/clue leads to another, you will have to be careful about where the card gets placed or hidden. On the first chart, we have suggested some example books to show the progression.

___ Pull the target book from the shelves to ensure it will be there on event day.



Hyacinth and the Secrets Beneath: A Book Stack Treasure Hunt to Introduce the Series

INHERITORS OF ORDER TEAM: CLUES

Clue: A book...	The book the clue refers to:	The book the clue is hidden in:
1) about an umbrella	The Yellow Umbrella	Not hidden. Clue will be handed out at the game's start.
2) by the Bard	Hamlet	The Yellow Umbrella
3) about "superhumans" (a.k.a. superheroes)	Superman Volume 1	Hamlet
4) on the Grand Canyon	Grand Canyon	Superman Volume 1
5) on rats	I Was a Rat	Grand Canyon
6) about America's 16th president	What Lincoln Said	I Was a Rat
7) about decent unicorns	The Last Unicorn	What Lincoln Said
8) with pigs	Charlotte's Web	The Last Unicorn
9) This is where the water bottles are hidden.	No book. This is where the bottles of water are hidden.	Charlotte's Web

Note: While some clues are similar for the two teams, try not to use the same book or area for the clues' location. Doing so could cause a tangle of clue progression.

EGALITARIAN TEAM: CLUES

Clue: A book...	The book the clue refers to:	The book the clue is hidden in:
1) about an umbrella		Not hidden. Clue will be handed out at the game's start.
2) about Charles Darwin		
3) about London (with mention of the Great Fire)		
4) on rats		
5) with a lie on the cover		
6) about insects (must include mosquitos)		
7) on Morse Code		
8) on the Black Death		
9) This is where the water bottles are hidden.	No book. This is where the bottles of water are hidden.	

PREPARE THE GAME'S CONCLUSION

___ The eighth clue will lead players to the water bottles and a final clue. That final clue will direct players to visit the Royal Mail. The volunteer playing the Royal Mail employee will have a dialogue with players. The Royal Mail employees are men and woman made of saltpetre and dirt. They speak very slowly and hiss their S's. Here is some suggested dialogue:

“How may I provide you with exsssellent sssservisse today?

I sssee that you have putrid water from the London Sssewers. I have your contractsss ssstating that you will dissscover, deliver, and dessstroy the drop of water in exchange for the return of your loved one.

Each of you appear [make a point of looking at them carefully] to have magic in your veinsss sssso the dessstruction of the magic is as sssimple as....[shuffle your papers and read] you drinking that sssewer water.

[If they do not drink...you can add:]

Very well. If that sseems too grosss to you humanssss, hold your umbrella above the bottle firsst, transsforming it into pure, clean spring water.

Pleassse open the bottle and drink.

[If they refuse.]

I'm sssorry to sssay, then, that your loved one will have to remain with us in a room full of quite atrocioussss creaturesss until you drink. I also must inform you that the dessstruction of London is imminent. Pleassse take cover the besst that you can. Have a good day.”

___ The Royal Mail employee can conclude by thanking the players for serving the city of London and by handing out the Thank You note. The note, as you can see below, leads players to an audio player with a performance of the opening of the book. Print and trim the Thank You Note from the Royal Mail on page 17. The note reads:

The Royal Mail thanks you for your service to the City of London. Neither the Royal Mail nor the great city it serves is responsible for the effects of the magic you have just swallowed.

To explore possible side effects of this magic, please read Jacob Sager Weinstein's Hyacinth book series from Random House. The series begins with **Hyacinth and the Secrets Beneath**. Get a free chapter at bit.ly/sewersecret.



SETTING UP THE DAY OF THE EVENT

___ Make sure your Royal Mail clerk has his/her script, visor, and thank you notes.

___ Make sure your Lady Roslyn (I bet that is you!) is ready to kick off the game.

___ At the start of the event, place the hats, the container of umbrellas, and the contracts with clipboards and pencils.

___ Lay out your two manhole covers on the floor near the start. Space them so players on each team can hop on them and proceed into “the sewers” without bumping into one another.

___ Hide the water bottles for each team at the location of their ninth clues.

___ Hide your clues in the selected books.

AS READERS ARRIVE

___ Give each reader a top hat. Alternate giving the “Inheritors of Order” hat (with the urn medallion) and the “Egalitarians” hat (with the hat on the medallion). The hats will determine your teams.

GAME PLAY

___ Lady Roslyn can introduce the game with dialogue like:

“Greetings, Americans! Welcome to London. My name (if you must know it) is Lady Roslyn.

I daresay you came to look at Big Ben and the Tower of London. Well, your travel plans have been changed, I’m afraid. Instead of the grand monuments above ground, you and I will be going underground.

I will be your guide through the secrets beneath London.

What and where is the “beneath”?
The sewers, of course.

What is the “secret”?
That the sewers are actually nine magical rivers that flow beneath this great city.

Why am I telling you this?
Because your bloodline is connected to those rivers. (Believe me, I am as surprised as you are.) The magic of the rivers flows in your very veins. Are you magic? Well, it is still too soon to say.

Hyacinth and the Secrets Beneath: A Book Stack Treasure Hunt to Introduce the Series

Why are you here?

Because a ridiculous American girl about your age, a girl named Hyacinth, unleashed something into the rivers that she should not have. That thing may either grant one of you an incredible power OR...destroy all of London.

What is this thing?

It is a single drop of water. You might wonder how a single drop of water could destroy an entire city or grant you magical abilities beyond your imagining. You can keep wondering. Until you read Jacob Sager Weinstein's HYACINTH book series, you will remain in a muddle.

What I can tell you now is that Hyacinth did something dreadful concerning a sink.

Yes, a sink. A drop of water from that sink has been surging through the magical rivers, drawing power from them every second. If we do not find it in one of the nine rivers, we are all in terrible danger that you cannot possibly anticipate.

Ever heard of the Great London Fire? 1666? The city burned for five days. 10,000 rooftops blazed and turned to ash. The entire city was lost. How did it start? You guessed it. (Or maybe you didn't.) The Great London Fire began with a dangerous drop of magical water.

Are you willing to help?

Well, I hate to tell you this, but whether you are or whether you are not, you may have to. One of your dearest family members has been taken by the Royal Mail. I know to you Americans that sounds lovely, like someone in your family has been taken for a carriage ride with the Queen.

The Royal Mail delivers, well, mail, but they also deliver justice when it comes to matters of the magical rivers. Your family member is being held captive in a room with a maniacal, mind-reading unicorn. A unicorn without the best intentions, if know what I mean. Oh, you don't what I mean? Well, best not to know too many frightening details.

To get back your beloved family member, you are going to have to come with me down into the London sewers and find that drop of water and destroy it.

Are you ready?

Please sign these contracts from the Royal Mail. They ensure your commitment and ensure the return of your loved one.

___ Hand out the contracts and pencils.

___ Lady Roslyn can point the players to the umbrellas with dialogue like:

"As stated in your contract, the Royal Mail has kindly provided umbrellas to create the illusion that the magical rivers or rivers of sewage look like this library/

Hyacinth and the Secrets Beneath: A Book Stack Treasure Hunt to Introduce the Series

bookstore. How could an umbrella possibly do that? Up until this point, you have used umbrellas to protect from the rain, yes? These umbrellas work much the same way - they protect you from the magical and human waste of the sewers.

If any one of your team members puts down their umbrella, please feel free to point out that they are standing up to their knees in, well, ‘poop’ as you say in America.”

___ Lady Roslyn can divide up the teams with dialogue like:

“You may have noticed that you have a symbol on your hats. The hats with the hat symbol are members of the Egalitarians. Please gather to my right. Inheritors of Order, on the other hand, believe the power must be safely contained among a chosen few, like water held in an urn. If your hat has a primitive clay urn on it, gather to my left.

You may not know this, but the Egalitarians and the Inheritors of Order have fought over the magical rivers for centuries. Please exhibit your displeasure with each other by shaking your fists or making faces at each other. Excellent.”

___ Lady Roslyn can have players enter the sewers with dialogue like:

“We are now headed into the sewers. To open the magical lock that guards them, please grip your umbrella, hum a tune, and jump into the hole. Egalitarians down this manhole, Inheritors of Order down this manhole. All right? Once your feet hit the circle, you are in the sewers; step aside and make way. If you keep hold of your umbrella, you will not smell or feel the river of *ahem* around your feet. Ready? Umbrella, hum a tune, and jump!”

___ Lady Roslyn can hand out the first clue to someone on each team with dialogue like:

“I am giving you your first clue. If you solve the clue, it will lead you to a book. If you have found the right book, it will contain another clue. Follow each of the clues until you find the London Sewer Water containing one drop of magic. I cannot help you with what that water looks like. I do not know myself.”

___ Lady Roslyn can wander the sewers providing help where needed.

___ When the readers have found their bottles of water, Lady Roslyn can direct them to The Royal Mail.

___ The Royal Mail clerk can wrap up the game with the suggested dialogue and actions on page 8 and hand out the thank notes. Huzzah! You deserve a unicorn (a nice one)!

*Enjoyed using this kit? Visit **CuriousCityDPW.com** for other event kits, story hour kits, treasure hunts, book club guides, book giveaways, and more ways to engage in children’s literature with play, conversation, and social action.*

READERS WANTED FOR ADVENTURE IN LONDON!



(Yes, the Inheritor of Order stickers should be affixed in this direction to look like an open urn.)

INHERITORS OF ORDER



EGALITARIANS



THE LONDON UNDERGROUND LOST PROPERTY OFFICE

THE ROYAL MAIL

THE ROYAL MAIL: CONTRACT

I, _____, do hereby pledge to return the lost drop of water
(your name)

to the nearest Royal Mail office by midnight. Upon the drop's return and destruction, the

Royal Mail will promptly return _____
(name of your favorite family member or friend)
to your home.

The Royal Mail will do its best to assist you by leaving clues beneath bricks in the sewers.

As you are unaccustomed to the river of human waste that you will encounter, we have also arranged for the tunnels to look like aisles of book cases and the sewage-encrusted bricks to appear as books. To ensure that this magical illusion stays in place, please locate an umbrella and keep a firm grip on it. The Royal Mail is not responsible for any horrors you might encounter in the sewers nor the terrible danger that you will most certainly be in.

(Your Signature)



Inspector Sands
The Royal Mail Police Force

FORM: ZXTUW4537 (ABDUCTION & IMPRISONMENT OF LOVED ONE)

PLEASE RETURN
to your local Royal Mail
for your deposit (or the
return of beloved family
or friend).

**GENUINE LONDON
SEWER WATER**

CAUTION:
May contain a drop of
extremely dangerous
magic. More info:
bit.ly/sewersecret

PLEASE RETURN
to your local Royal Mail
for your deposit (or the
return of beloved family
or friend).

**GENUINE LONDON
SEWER WATER**

CAUTION:
May contain a drop of
extremely dangerous
magic. More info:
bit.ly/sewersecret

PLEASE RETURN
to your local Royal Mail
for your deposit (or the
return of beloved family
or friend).

**GENUINE LONDON
SEWER WATER**

CAUTION:
May contain a drop of
extremely dangerous
magic. More info:
bit.ly/sewersecret

PLEASE RETURN
to your local Royal Mail
for your deposit (or the
return of beloved family
or friend).

**GENUINE LONDON
SEWER WATER**

CAUTION:
May contain a drop of
extremely dangerous
magic. More info:
bit.ly/sewersecret

PLEASE RETURN
to your local Royal Mail
for your deposit (or the
return of beloved family
or friend).

**GENUINE LONDON
SEWER WATER**

CAUTION:
May contain a drop of
extremely dangerous
magic. More info:
bit.ly/sewersecret

THE ROYAL MAIL THANKS YOU

FOR YOUR SERVICE TO THE CITY OF LONDON.

Neither the Royal Mail nor the great city it serves is responsible for the effects of the magic you have just swallowed.

To explore possible side effects of this magic, please read Jacob Sager Weinstein's **HYACINTH** book series from Random House.

The series begins with
**HYACINTH AND THE
SECRETS BENEATH.**
Listen to the opening
of the book at:
bit.ly/sewersecret



THE ROYAL MAIL THANKS YOU

FOR YOUR SERVICE TO THE CITY OF LONDON.

Neither the Royal Mail nor the great city it serves is responsible for the effects of the magic you have just swallowed.

To explore possible side effects of this magic, please read Jacob Sager Weinstein's **HYACINTH** book series from Random House.

The series begins with
**HYACINTH AND THE
SECRETS BENEATH.**
Listen to the opening
of the book at:
bit.ly/sewersecret



THE ROYAL MAIL THANKS YOU

FOR YOUR SERVICE TO THE CITY OF LONDON.

Neither the Royal Mail nor the great city it serves is responsible for the effects of the magic you have just swallowed.

To explore possible side effects of this magic, please read Jacob Sager Weinstein's **HYACINTH** book series from Random House.

The series begins with
**HYACINTH AND THE
SECRETS BENEATH.**
Listen to the opening
of the book at:
bit.ly/sewersecret



THE ROYAL MAIL THANKS YOU

FOR YOUR SERVICE TO THE CITY OF LONDON.

Neither the Royal Mail nor the great city it serves is responsible for the effects of the magic you have just swallowed.

To explore possible side effects of this magic, please read Jacob Sager Weinstein's **HYACINTH** book series from Random House.

The series begins with
**HYACINTH AND THE
SECRETS BENEATH.**
Listen to the opening
of the book at:
bit.ly/sewersecret



FROM HYACINTH AND THE SECRETS BENEATH

“...individual umbrellas do have a small amount of power. Every year, seven thousand umbrellas pass through the Lost Property Office. And my goodness, what a coincidence, the Lost Property Office just happens to be located above the single most powerful magical nexus...Every umbrella that comes through here leaves recharged, thereby offering Londoners just a bit of extra protection from stray magical forces.”



FOR THE INHERITORS OF ORDER: CLUE 1

Stray magical forces are what you are here for, why we have sent you into the sewers. You must find the escaped water.

Follow the sewers to **find a book with an umbrella** and absorb some of its magical protection. You are going to need it.



FROM HYACINTH AND THE SECRETS BENEATH

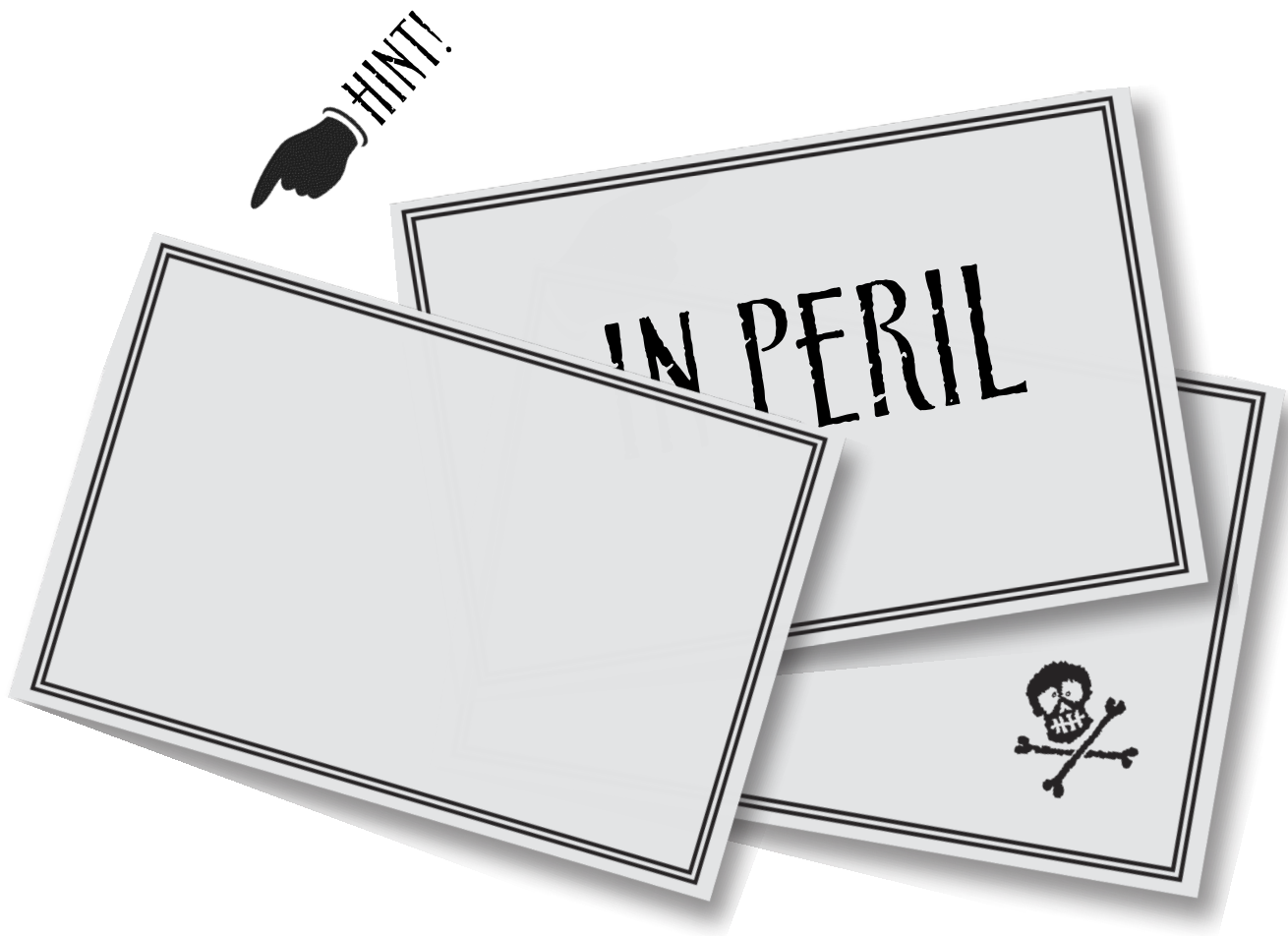
“After all, why should the nation that discovered evolution, produced the works of Shakespeare, and conquered the entire globe be able to master basic bathroom plumbing?”



FOR THE INHERITORS OF ORDER: CLUE 2

Hyacinth, the girl who started this all, had no respect for British plumbing.

Follow the sewers to **find a book by the Bard** to reinstate respect for good old England.



FROM HYACINTH AND THE SECRETS BENEATH

“The rivers weren’t important because you could sail on them. They were important because they were magic...You could drink it [river water] in combination with certain other substances and receive superhuman inspiration.”



FOR THE INHERITORS OF ORDER: CLUE 3

If you find the water, you will have access to magic that could give you superhuman powers.

Follow the sewers to **find a book about superhumans** and look for the perils of superpowers.



FROM HYACINTH AND THE SECRETS BENEATH

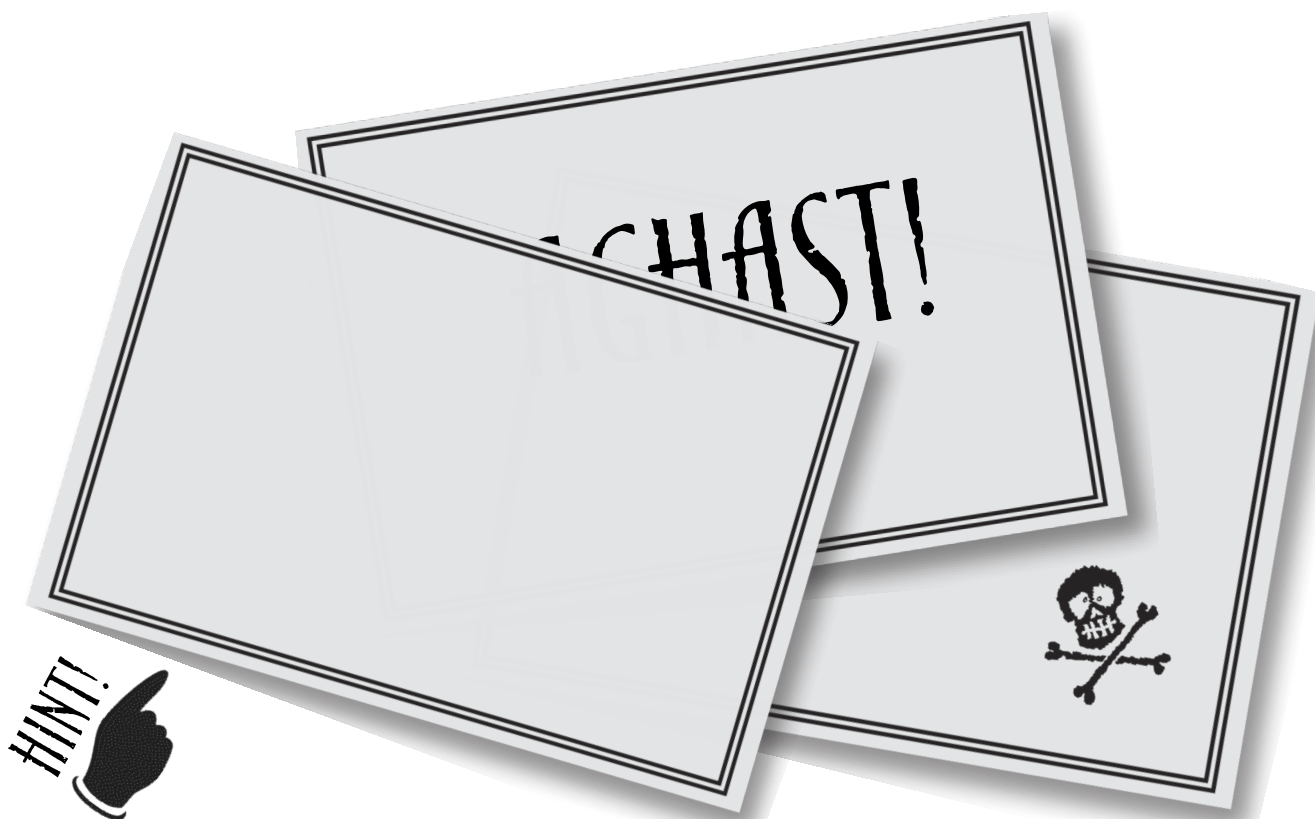
We stood and looked into a huge cavern below us. It was like the Grand Canyon of sewage. Stinky rivers from a dozen other tunnels waterfalled into a vast brick canyon filled with a glowing lake of gross. Last time I had seen it, the drop had glowed, but not brightly enough to light up a whole lake. It must have gotten more powerful since then.



FOR THE INHERITORS OF ORDER: CLUE 4

The drop of water is becoming more powerful. Hurry to the next clue, but be sure to hold on to your umbrella, or you will see (and smell) that glowing lake of gross.

Follow the sewers to **find a book on the Grand Canyon** (and picture it filled with sewage). Delightful.



FROM HYACINTH AND THE SECRETS BENEATH

And just when I thought there was nothing grosser than rats swarming over me, they started swarming under me, too. I could feel myself starting to float away on a tide of rats. I stopped thrashing and grabbed for the nearest metal rung, but it was a little too high, and before I could sit upright, I was swept away by the rodent tide, into another dark tunnel.



FOR THE INHERITORS OF ORDER: CLUE 5

Hyacinth is not the only one having the creepiest and most disgusting day of her life, right?

Follow the sewers to **find a book on rats** and try not to shriek.



FROM HYACINTH AND THE SECRETS BENEATH

Oaroboarus stuck his snout into a large carpetbag that was sitting on the chair next to him and pulled out three silk top hats. He tossed one to Little Ben and one to me, and then flipped the last one onto his own head.

“Top hats?” I asked...

So I started thinking, maybe inspiration comes out through the top of your head? And maybe hats stopped it from floating away? And maybe the bigger the hat, the more inspiration it could store?”

I stared at him. “I admit, I’m sitting here drinking tea with a giant pig and an amnesiac eleven-year-old I met in the sewer, so I’m not really in a position to say this, but doesn’t that sound crazy to you?”



FOR THE INHERITORS OF ORDER: CLUE 6

So now do you understand why you are wearing that handsome hat? We are trying to give your brain as much help as possible!

Follow the sewers to **find a book about America’s 16th president** and peek under his top hat for inspiration.



FROM HYACINTH AND THE SECRETS BENEATH

And right next to me was a unicorn, chained to his treadmill by a golden collar around his neck. When I was little, I had loved reading about unicorns, and I had always dreamed I might meet one someday. Trust me: this was not the unicorn I had dreamed about. He had an unhinged look in his eyes, and the white hair on his chin was flecked with black, which made him look like some sleazy guy who had just woken up and hadn't bothered to shave. When I looked at him, he looked back at me with an intense stare that made me look away immediately.



FOR THE INHERITORS OF ORDER: CLUE 7

You are face-to-face with an evil unicorn.

Follow the sewers to **find a book about decent unicorns** to help keep this one on his chain.



FROM HYACINTH AND THE SECRETS BENEATH

A pig wearing a bathing suit.

A huge pig wearing a bathing suit.

A bathing-suit-wearing pig so big, it could make eye contact with a cow.



FOR THE INHERITORS OF ORDER: CLUE 8

The London sewers hold many things. Knowing whether they are friend or foe is close to impossible.

Follow the sewers to **find a book with pigs** and hope it serves you as a friend.



FROM HYACINTH AND THE SECRETS BENEATH

“Hold on just a minute.” He stuck his head down, peering into the umbrella from a few feet away, then let out a low whistle. “Well, boil me in Betty,” he said...

I had no idea what he was talking about, but I knew one thing: I was going to have to start saying “boil me in Betty.”



FOR THE INHERITORS OF ORDER: CLUE 9

Well, boil me in Betty, you are quite close to the water that contains the magical drop. **Please locate all of the water sources and bring them them to the nearest Royal Mail location.**



FROM HYACINTH AND THE SECRETS BENEATH

“Open your umbrella,” Lady Roslyn told me.

I did, and then I gasped. It was like the umbrella cast a reverse shadow. Everything that wasn’t under the umbrella was still dark—but a beautiful golden light poured down on everything below the umbrella, transforming whatever it touched. As soon as they floated into the glowing circle, the little lumps of grossness transformed.



FOR THE EGALITARIANS: CLUE 1

I hope you are pleased that we have already transformed the “little lumps of grossness” into the books you see around you.

Follow the sewers to **find a book with an umbrella** for extra protection from the river of sewage flowing around you.



FROM HYACINTH AND THE SECRETS BENEATH

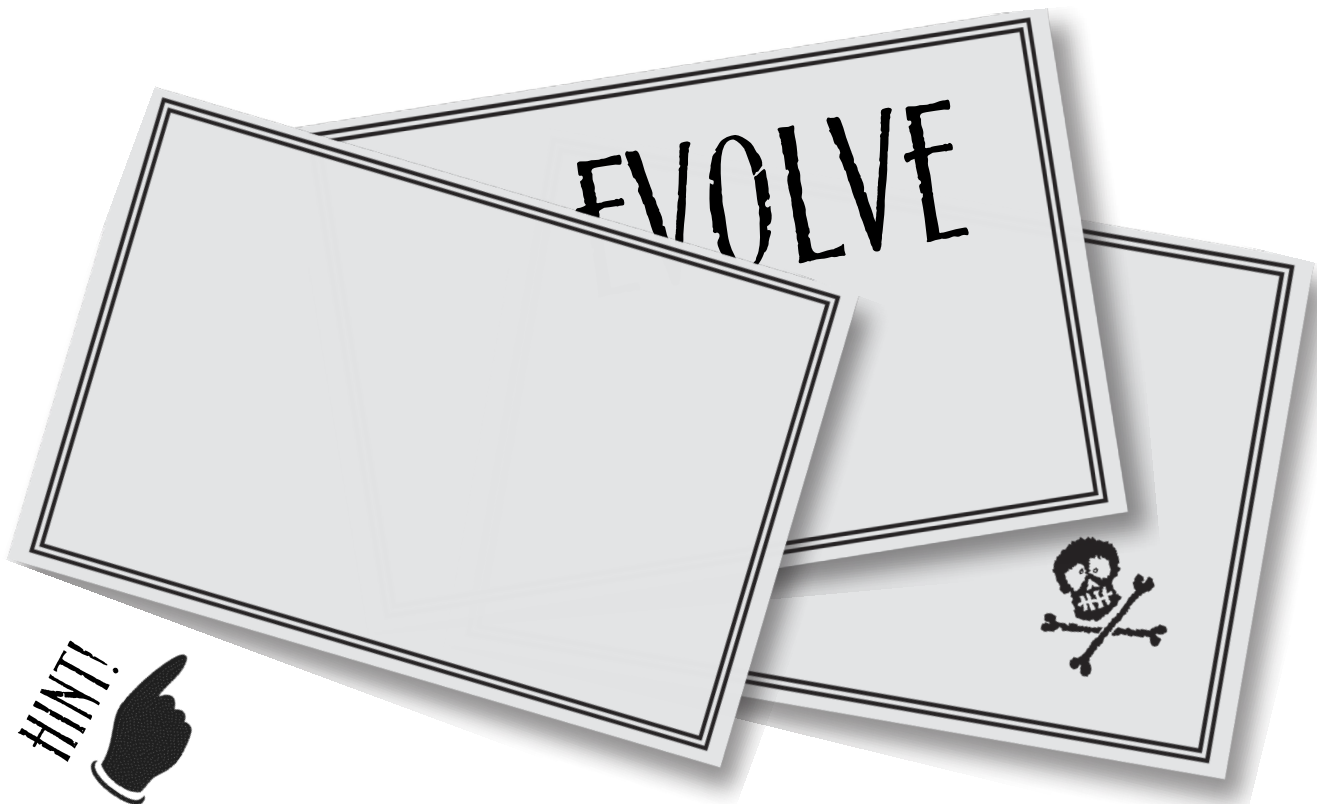
“After all, why should the nation that discovered evolution, produced the works of Shakespeare, and conquered the entire globe be able to master basic bathroom plumbing?”



FOR THE EGALITARIANS: CLUE 2

Hyacinth, the girl who started this all, had no respect for British plumbing.

Follow the sewers to **find a book about Charles Darwin** to reinstate respect for good old England.



FROM HYACINTH AND THE SECRETS BENEATH

“You have, perhaps, heard of the Great Fire of London?...It was indeed in 1666, and it burned for five days, and it destroyed the entire city. And at its height, with the heat of ten thousand burning roofs scorching the air and the light of ten thousand burning houses searing the eyes and the angry roar of a hundred thousand crackling timbers assaulting the ears, it was very much like Hell.”



FOR THE EGALITARIANS: CLUE 3

When was the last time water magic was unleashed into the rivers? 1666.
Do you see now why you **MUST** find this ridiculous drop of water?

Follow the sewers to **find a book about London** and learn about the Great Fire.



FROM HYACINTH AND THE SECRETS BENEATH

Thousands of rats exploded out of the pipe, crashing into my face, knocking me back down to the ground, swarming over me.

During the creepiest and most disgusting day of my entire life, I thought I had handled everything pretty calmly, all things considered. But now there were rats swarming over my body, and all I could do was shriek really intelligent things like “Aaaaaaa!”



FOR THE EGALITARIANS: CLUE 4

Hyacinth is not the only one having the creepiest and most disgusting day of her life, right?

Follow the sewers to **find a book on rats** and try not to shriek.



FROM HYACINTH AND THE SECRETS BENEATH

“What’s going on?” I said. Or, actually, shouted, since it was kind of hard to be heard over all the crashing stone.

“When you are in the presence of magic,” Lady Roslyn shouted back, “never break your word, and never, never, never tell a lie.”



FOR THE EGALITARIANS: CLUE 5

You have been warned. When you lie in the presence of magic, whole buildings can crumble.

Follow the sewers to **find a book with a lie on the cover**. Let it be a warning to you.



FROM HYACINTH AND THE SECRETS BENEATH

It was the tuxedoed mosquito. He must have broken his chains ...His long nose twitched, sniffing up and down my arm in a disgustingly ticklish way.

"I've been terribly rude," he said. "I haven't even introduced myself. Seeing how I'm going to be deep within your veins, you ought to at least know my name. Geoffrey Noctofimus, at your service."

"That's very kind," I said. "But I don't actually require any services at the moment."



FOR THE EGALITARIANS: CLUE 6

You are about to have your armed pierced by a giant mosquito (in a tux).

Follow the sewers to **find a book about the insects**. You can get away if you swat the page with a mosquito on it.



FROM HYACINTH AND THE SECRETS BENEATH

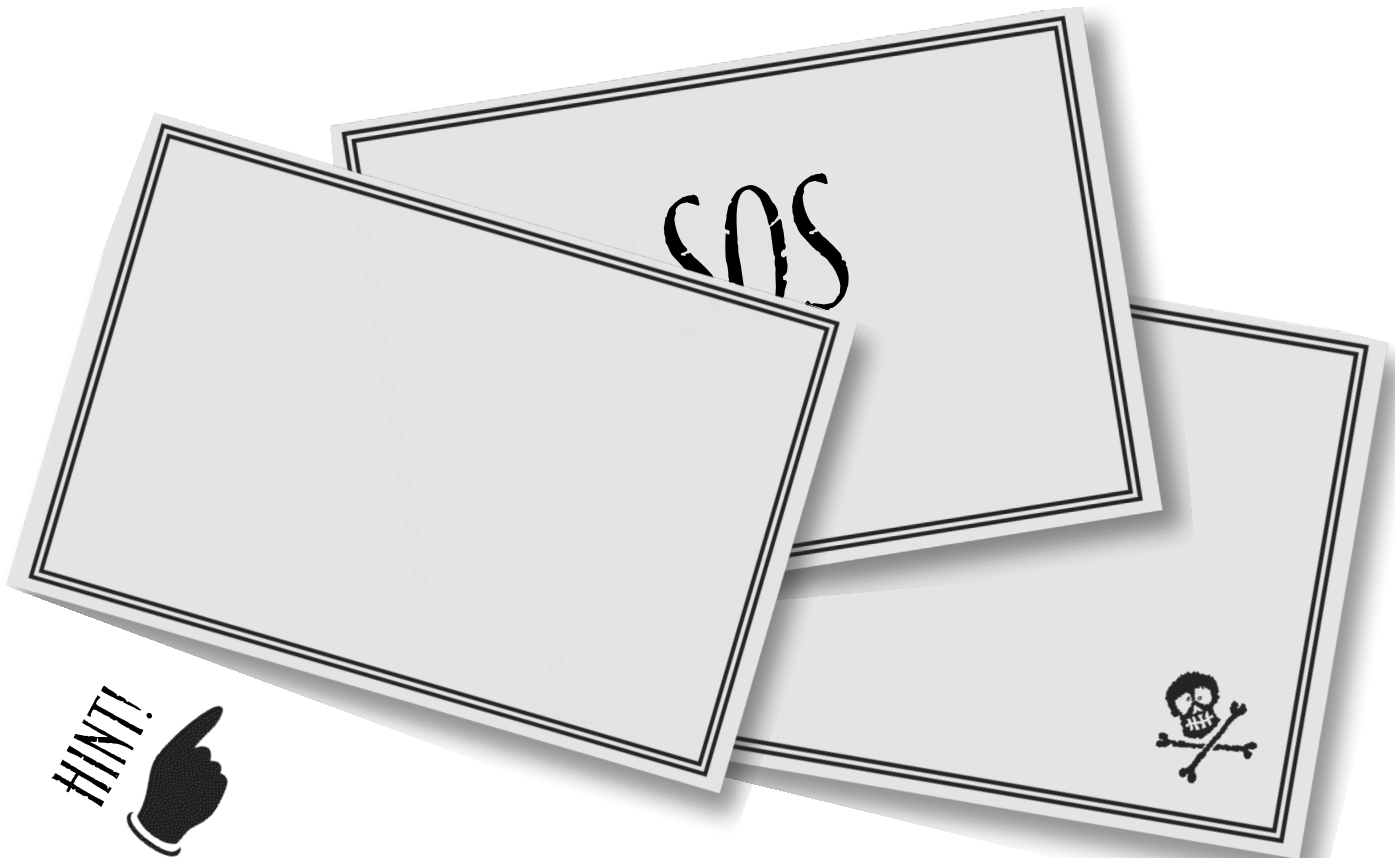
Of course, a code was only useful if the person on the other end knew it, too. Still, there was one Morse code phrase that more people knew than any other, and it happened to apply here.



FOR THE EGALITARIANS: CLUE 7

You are trapped in a deep cavern of a room. The walls are too slick to climb out.

Follow the sewers to **find a book on Morse Code and learn how to tap out “HELP!” on the cover.**



FROM HYACINTH AND THE SECRETS BENEATH

“Those white things,” I said. “Are they . . .”

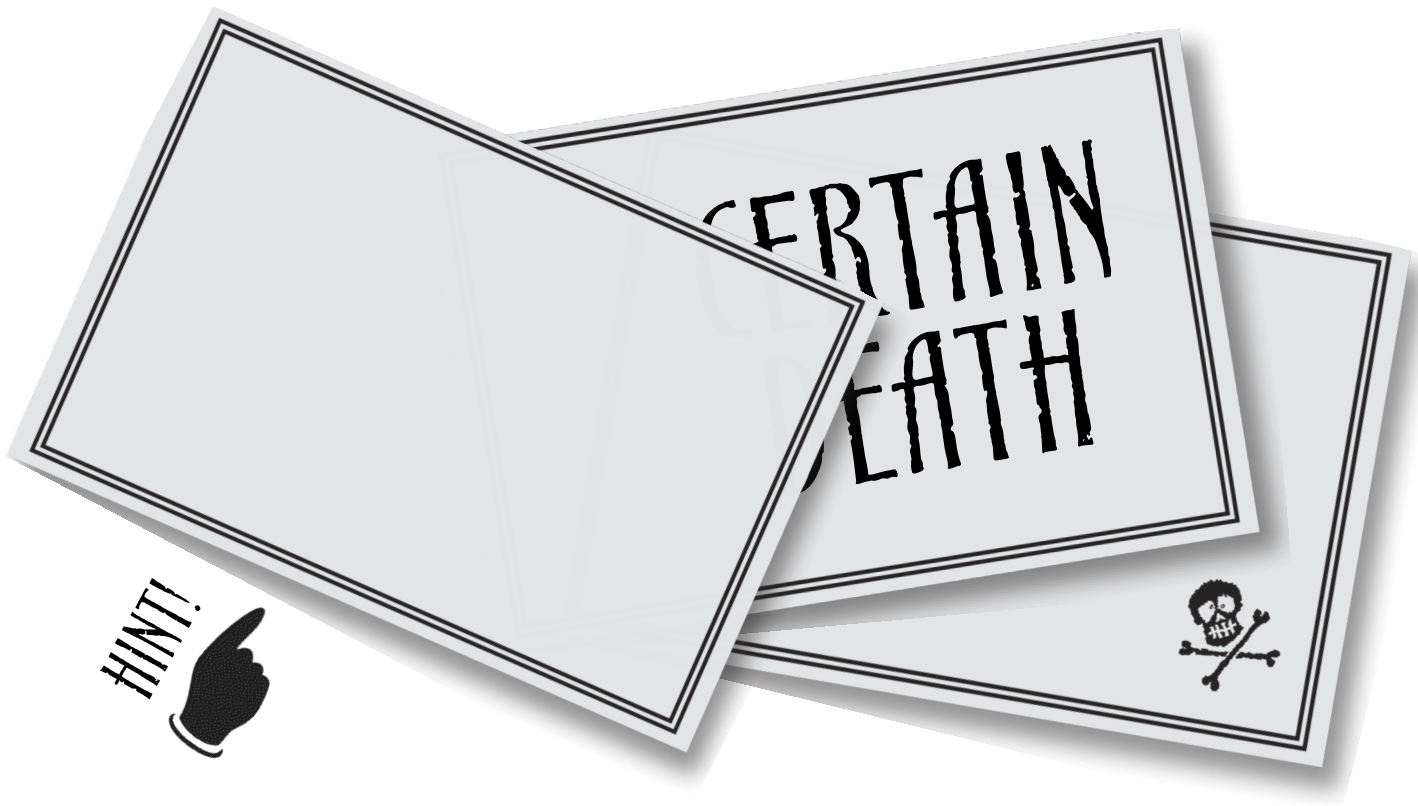
“Boness,” he answered. “When the Black Death sstruck London, the corpssess piled up sso fasst that the living could not bury the dead. Insstead, they szhoveled them into plague pitss like thiss one, buried asz deep asz they could dig.”



FOR THE EGALITARIANS: CLUE 8

Sorry, did we not tell you you might have to walk through a room of bones? They are, in fact, the bones of plague victims.

Follow the sewers to **find a book on the Black Death** and you will be vaccinated against the world’s most deadly disease.



FROM HYACINTH AND THE SECRETS BENEATH

“I was afraid of that,” Lady Roslyn said. “The drop is heading towards the mouth of the Tyburn [River]. When it has traversed the entire river, the Tyburn’s powers will be fully activated.”

“And then?”

“And then, Hyacinth, your mother will be far from the only casualty of the day.”



FOR THE EGALITARIANS: CLUE 9

You are quite close to the water that contains the magical drop. **Please locate all of the water sources and bring them them to the nearest Royal Mail location to avoid any casualties.**

