

Escape Rooms | That will (almost) fit on one Book Cart

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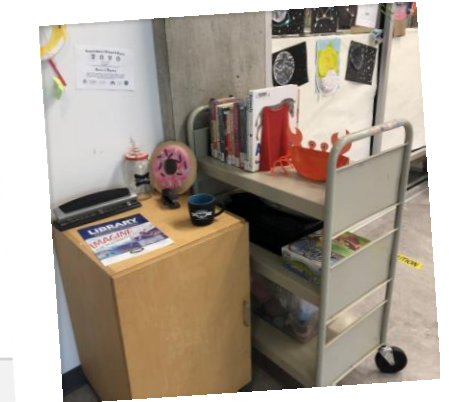
Group 1 – Escape from Umbridge’s Office



Group 2 – Escape from Umbridge’s Office



Group 3 – Rescue the Summer Reading Club Medals

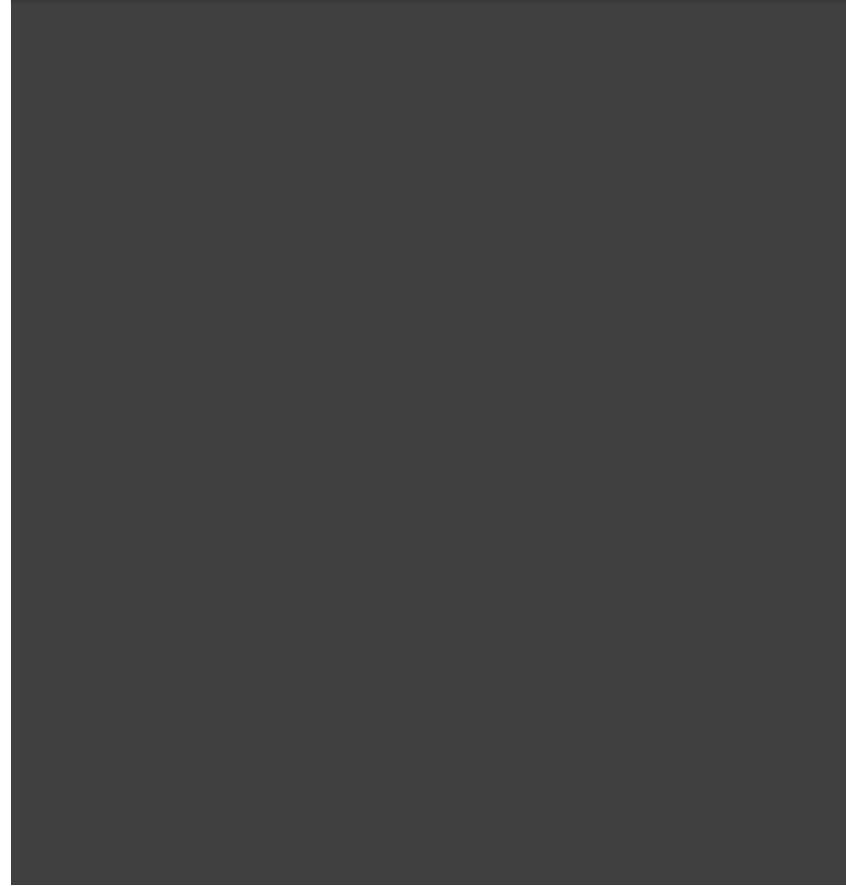


Group 4 – Rescue the SRC Medals

Mini Escape Room Activity!

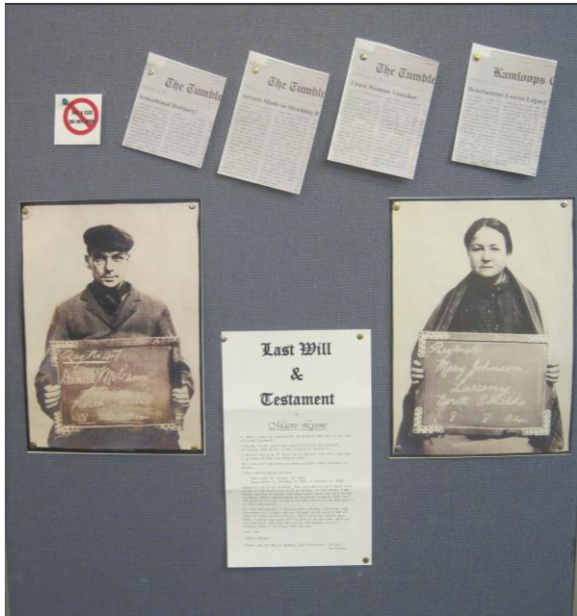
Why Escape Rooms?

- They're fun!
- They get people excited about the library
- They're adaptable
- They are educational
- They work for a wide variety of user groups



How many 12 year olds have you had bring their birthday party to the library?

The Rooms



Train Robbery!
(2016)



Escape from Umbridge's Office
(2018)



*Rescue the Summer Reading
Club Medals* (2018)

Research & Planning

- “101 Best Escape Room Puzzle Ideas” – Now Escape
- “18 Essential Strategies for Creating a Great Escape Room” – Now Escape
- *Do(n't) Panic! A Manual for original library Escape Room events* – Nicole Scherer (Fairfield Public Library CT)



How do you secure things in a room in which you usually only have child-safe locks?

- One program room
- Room couldn't be locked from the inside
- Full of cabinets with program materials stored inside
- Only child-safety locks on cabinets
- Limited access to the room



Train Robbery – Nov 2016

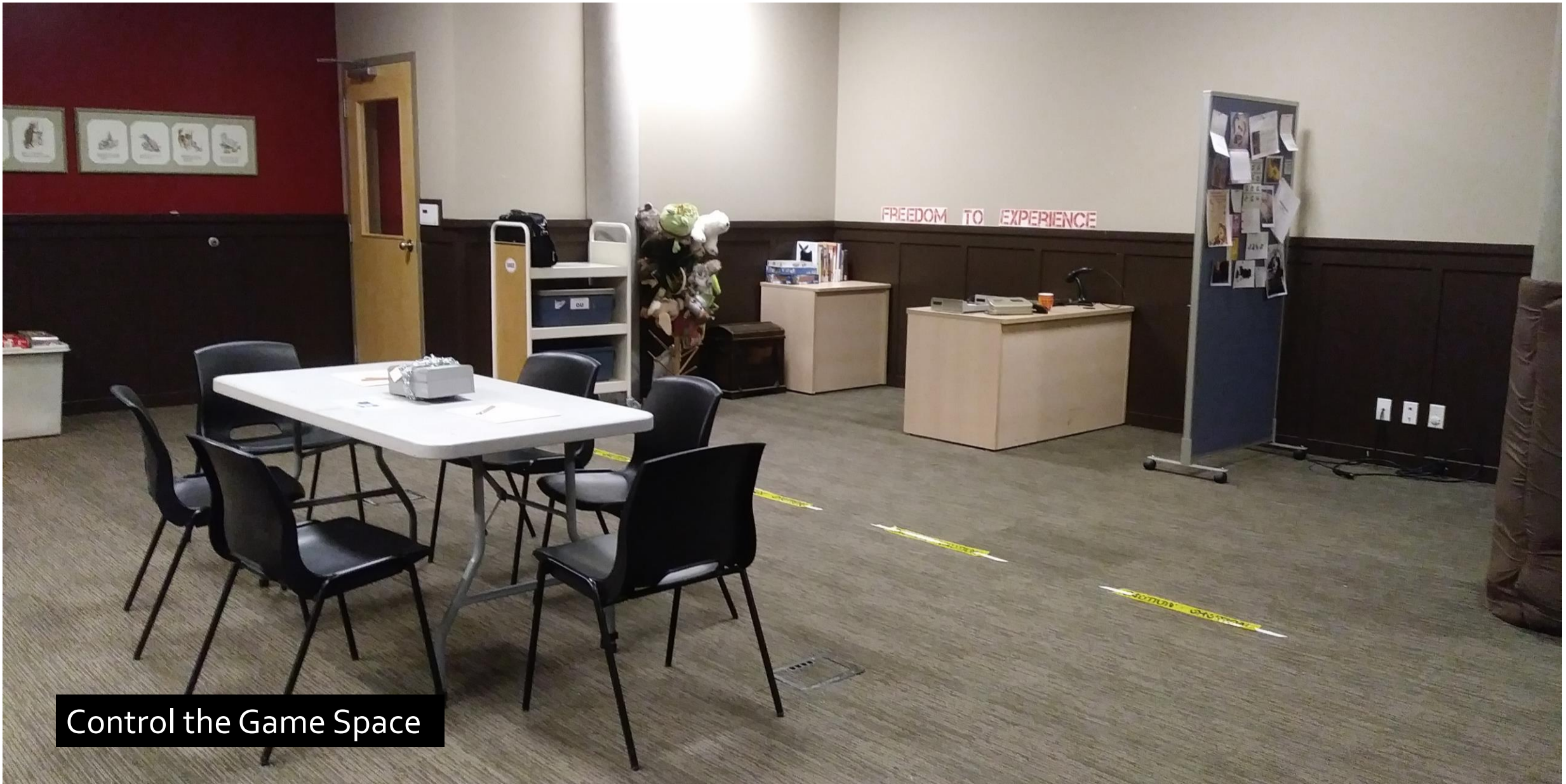
Lessons Learned

- “Not a Clue!” labels
- No red herrings
- Have a clear story
- Things that can’t lock are no fun
- Function is more important than form



Our "knot puzzle" and "Not a Clue!" labels

- Have a secondary clue when context is important
- It's more fun when everyone is successful
- Groups between 2-6 people



Control the Game Space

It's all about Problem Solving

- Finding all the pieces of something
- Putting all the pieces of something in the right order
- Missing letters that spell out a clue
- Clues in another language

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows
Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone
Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban
Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince
Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix

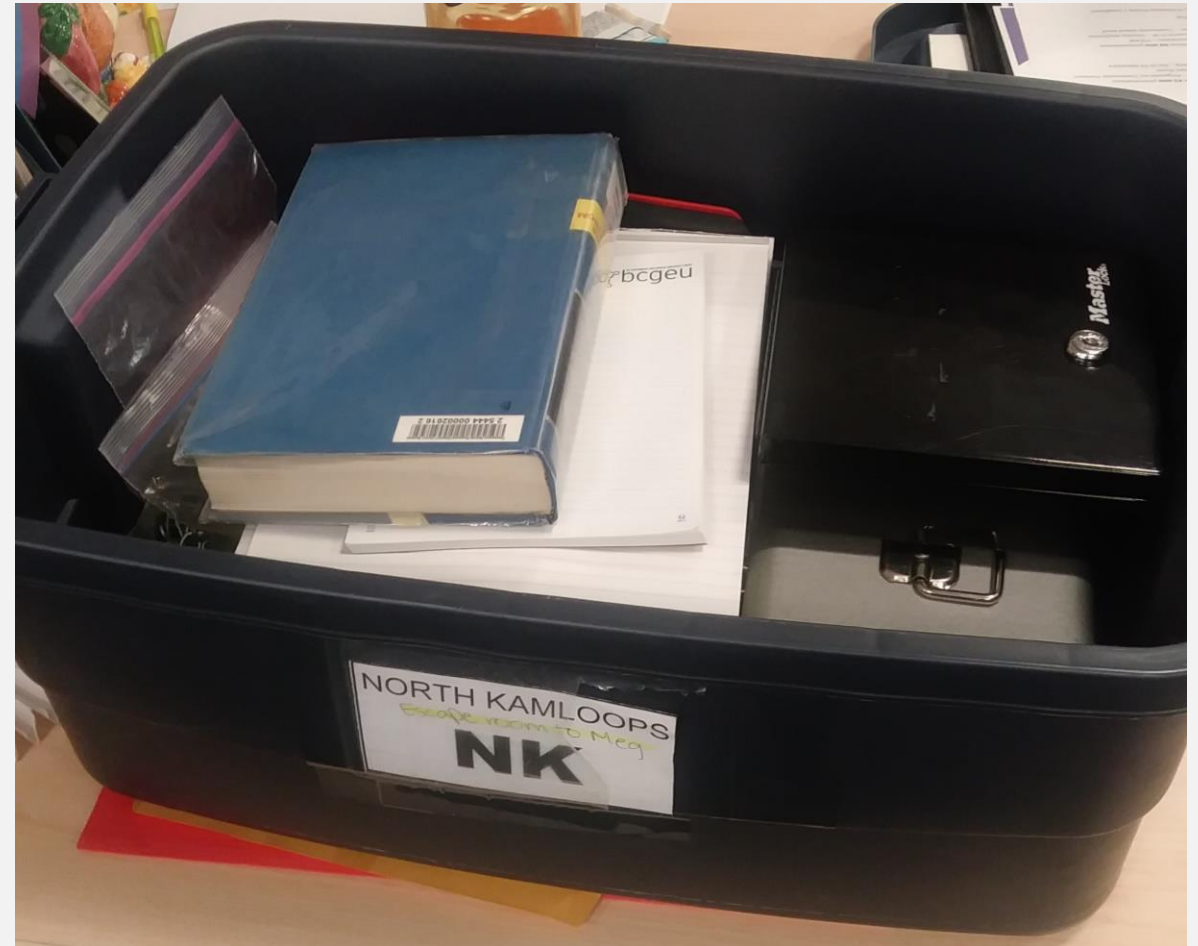


*Missing Letter Puzzle – Escape from
Umbridge's Office*

- Hidden keys
- Layered papers
- Clues in code
 - Book code
 - Substitution codes
- Letters in a maze
- Clues in documents that need to be identified

What's in our Kit?

- 3 lockable cashboxes
- 2 lengths of chain
- 1 programmable word lock
- 1 alphanumeric lock (optional)
- 1 key lock
- 1 hollow book
- 1 roll of caution ribbon/tape
- Notebooks & pens
- Book ends
- Binder with program plans
- USB key with masters of printable materials





Small lockable cashbox



*Lockable cashbox with handle
(can be locked with chains)*



*Lockable cashbox with handle
(can be locked with chains)*



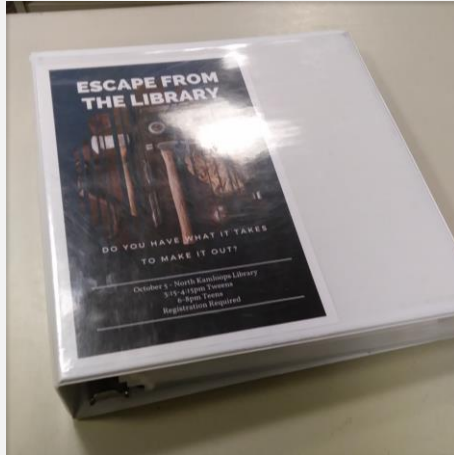
2 lengths of chain



Programmable word lock



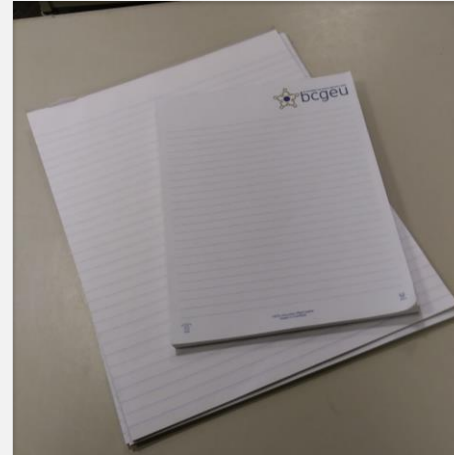
Roll of caution tape



Binder with program plans



Key lock



Notebooks



Not a Clue Labels



Escape from Umbridge's Office – March 2018

What comes in the Kit?

- Program Plan
- Suggested Room Layout
- Clue Map
- Pensieve
- Sorting Hat
- Dragon Puppet
- Cat plates
- Beige cash box
- Length of chain
- Word lock
- Black cash box
- Card with Deathly Hallows symbol
- Catalogue Cards with letters on them: Qui, sq, uis, <space>, pul, sat
- Key for black cash box
- Educational Decrees
- Missing Letters Puzzle
- Book Code
- Runic Code
- Sorting Hat Riddle
- Umbridge Letter
- Not a clue label

What does the branch need to provide?

- Desk/Table
- Bookcase/Table
- Wall/Board
- Half written message on desk "the memories must be key"
- Table for participants to work at
- Pencils
- Paper
- *Additional set dressing as desired: tea cup, confiscated wand, potions, tablecloth, robe, fireplace*
- Harry Potter 4
- Harry Potter 7
- Cat Speak
- Happy Teachers Change the World
- Management
- The Anti-Bullying Handbook
- Change with Confidence
- Cat Sense
- *Additional books related to magic or Harry Potter as desired*

The final spell is "Quisquis pulsat hic ero licuerit relinques". It is divided into three parts which are hidden separately around the room. The Umbridge Letter explains this.



The Clue Map



Rescue the Summer Reading Club Medals – August 2019

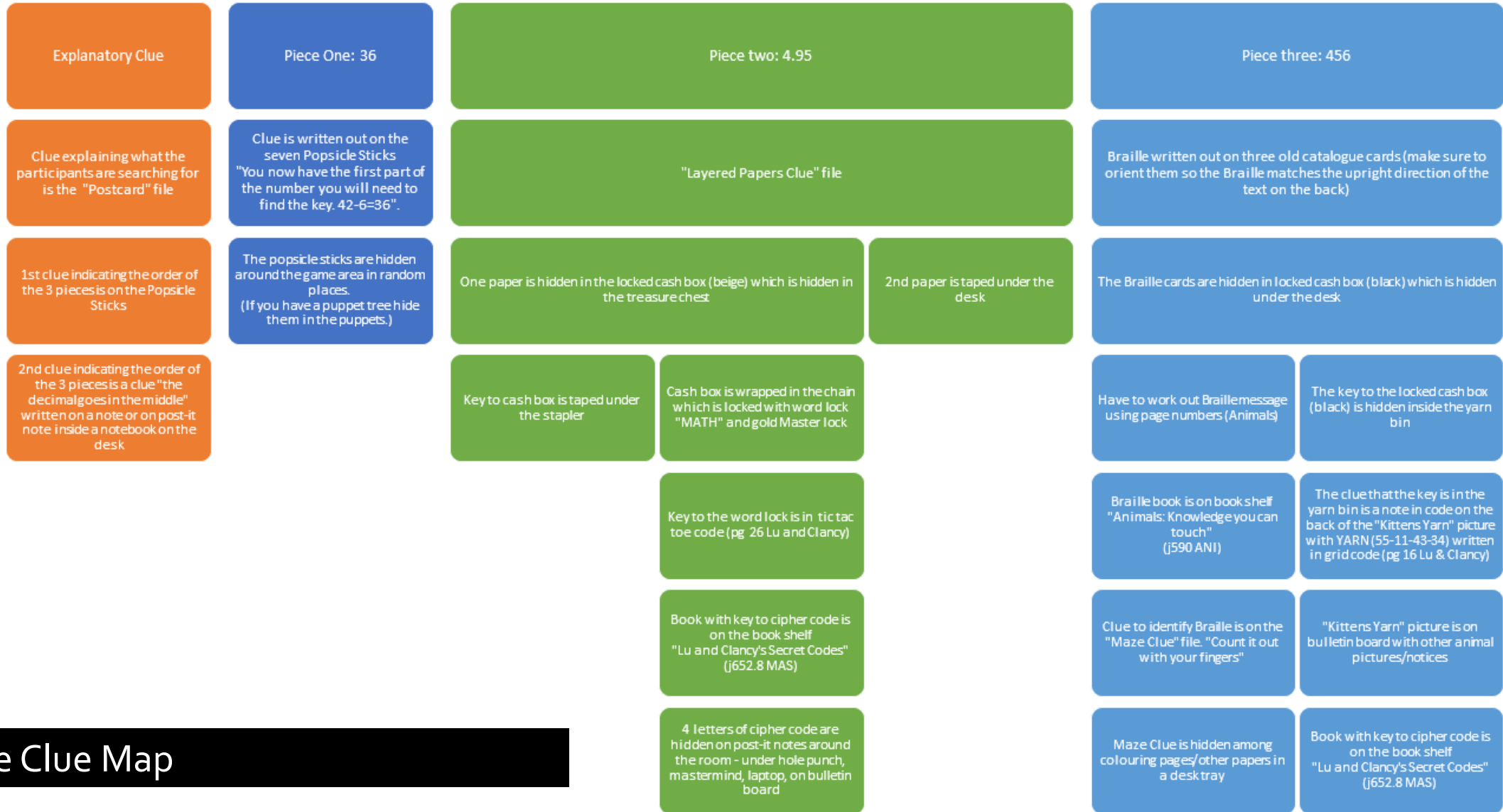
What comes in the Kit?

- Program Plan
- Suggested Room Layout
- Clue Map
- Grey cash box
- Beige cash box
- Black cash box
- Treasure chest
- Length of chain (x2)
- Word lock
- Gold Master lock
- Key for black cash box
- Key for grey cash box
- Key for beige cash box
- Key for gold Master lock
- Popsicle Sticks
- Yarn Bin
- Old catalogue cards
- Post-it notes
- Old Summer Reading Club medals
- *The Evolution of Human Nature* hollow book
- Not a clue labels

What does the branch need to provide?

- Desk/Table
- Chair
- Bookcase/Table
- Wall/Bulletin Board
- Hole punch, Stapler, Tape
- Laptop
- Desk tray
- Notebook
- Colouring sheets/other papers
- Written note “the decimal goes in the middle”
- Braille written on cards 4, 5, 6
- Tic tac toe code written on post-it notes
- Code written on back of “Kittens Yarn” picture 55-11-43-34
- Table for participants to work at
- Chairs
- Pencils
- Paper
- *Additional set dressing as desired: tea cup, notebooks, papers in desk tray, papers on bulletin board, to-do lists, etc.*
- Lu & Clancy’s Secret Codes (j652.8 MAS)
- Animals: Knowledge you can Touch (j590 ANI)
- *Additional books related to libraries, librarians, library programming to fill out book shelf*

The key to open the gold Master lock securing the chain around the unlocked cash box (grey) is hidden inside the hollowed out book "The Evolution of Human Nature". The call number for the book is 364.95456 SAW and is split into 3 pieces. Participants need to take the call number out into the library to find the book and retrieve the key.



The Clue Map

March 2018



North Kamloops Library

August 2019



Kamloops Library



Questions?

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Resources

- 101 Best Escape Room Puzzle Ideas – Now Escape (<https://nowescape.com/blog/101-best-puzzle-ideas-for-escape-rooms/>)
- 18 Essential Strategies for Creating a Great Escape Room – Now Escape (<https://nowescape.com/blog/18-essential-strategies-for-creating-a-great-escape-room/>)
- Do(n't) Panic! A Manual for original library Escape Room events – Nicole Scherer (<https://libraryladynicole.com/programs/escape-room/>)