



Teaching Notes & Resources

Key Stage 2

Themes: Adventure | Mystery | Enid Blyton

Purchase *The New Famous Five*



SCAN ME

CHARACTER STUDY

GEORGE KIRRIN

THE NEW
FAMOUS FIVE
FIVE AND THE
FORGOTTEN
TREASURE
BY CHRIS SMITH
INSPIRED BY ENID BLYTON

While reading *The New Famous Five: Five and the Forgotten Treasure* by *Chris Smith*, gather information about the important character, George. You should add to each category as the story develops and you learn more about her.



What do you know about George?

What is Professor George Kirrin's attitude towards the children? How does it change as the story develops?

What differences and similarities are there between George now and George as she was 55 years earlier?

What evidence can you find that George's previous adventures have shaped the person that she is now?



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EXTRACT 1:

TAKEN FROM CHAPTER 4: The Shadow of the Past

THE NEW
FAMOUS FIVE
FIVE AND THE FORGOTTEN TREASURE
BY CHRIS SMITH
INSPIRED BY ENID BLYTON

'In here! Quick!' Fran shouted. If she'd had time to think, she might have sent her sister and brother off to get help, but she was in a panic. They came bundling into the study to be greeted by the sight of the man spread-eagled on the rug with a growling Gilbert on his chest. Fran, looking pale and scared in the moonlight, was over by the desk with George struggling to stand nearby.

'Hold him down!' shouted George desperately, but it was too late. With a snarl, the straggly-haired man had thrown Gilbert off his chest. The dog rolled away with a howl of pain. The man struggled to his knees, swishing his club menacingly at Maddy and Tom.

'Over by the fireplace!' he ordered. 'All of you! Now! And keep that dog with you or you'll regret it!'

'Here, Gilbert! Quick!' called Fran, as she helped George to her feet and joined the others by the fireplace.

'He must have sneaked in while I was working on the test results!' said George groggily. 'He knocked me out!'

'No talking!' The man waved his cudgel threateningly. There was a whine from behind him

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and, for the first time, the children noticed that his sad-looking dog was cowering behind the door. 'Shut up,' said the man angrily. The dog whimpered unhappily and both Fran and George gave furious growls. Neither of them could stand people who weren't kind to animals.

'I already told you yesterday,' George grumbled. 'You're not getting that map! I'll never give it up!'

'Is he after your experiments?' asked Maddy, putting an arm around Tom and Fran.

The man gave a coarse, crowing laugh. 'Experiments!' he echoed scornfully. 'Of course I'm not after her experiments. Her father couldn't get them to work and neither can *Georgina*.'

'Shut up!' snapped George furiously. 'How dare you talk about my father!' Her eyes rested on a silver-framed photograph on the desk. It showed a severe-looking man with thick eyebrows and a full head of dark, wavy hair.

'Well what does he want then?' Fran sounded scared.

'*Georgina* knows very well what I want,' said the man in a mocking tone of voice.

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Discussion Questions:

- Why didn't Fran send her siblings to get help? What does it tell you about her character?
- What does the intruder's treatment of his dog tell you about his character? What does the reaction of Fran and George to their opinion of him?
- How does the intruder's mocking tone about George's experiments and her father affect her? What clues in the text show her reaction?
- Why does the intruder refer to George as "Georgina" instead of the name she prefers? What does this tell you about their relationship?
- What does the intruder want? Why do you think he wants it so badly?

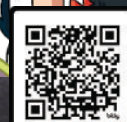


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EXTRACT 2:

TAKEN FROM CHAPTER 11: The Secret of Whispering Wood

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BY CHRIS SMITH
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You know all that stuff she was telling you about the grave robbers? That there's nothing really left inside the barrows?'

'Yes,' said Julian, Dick, Anne and George all at once, feeling the familiar prickle of adventure run up their spines.

'Well, that was nonsense,' said Raymond. 'The Whispering Wood Barrows were completely untouched and when my mother started digging she found the main burial chamber . . . and the treasure.'

'I KNEW it!' said Dick, getting up and capering around the clearing. 'I *knew* there was treasure! I could feel it in my bones!' Timmy gave a delighted 'wuff' of agreement.

'Shh!' Julian told him. 'Don't let them hear! Finish the story, Raymond. I supposed they threatened you, did they?'

'They kidnapped my mother,' Raymond told them, 'Sarah Trevelyan and two men who were here to help with the dig – Spike and Fred. Once they knew there was treasure, they took her prisoner. They're stealing all the gold for themselves.'

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'But why send you to Kirrin Cottage?' asked George. 'Why didn't they just keep you captive as well?'

'I was supposed to keep an ear open and warn her if anybody in the village started asking questions,' said Raymond, looking shamefaced. 'That's why she asked me whether things were "all calm" when we went to visit.'

'And you never tried to stand up to them, or fetch help?' asked George heatedly.

'They said they'd hurt my mother if I tried.' Raymond's lip began to quiver.

'Chin up,' Julian told him. 'I know you've been terribly scared, but you don't need to worry any more.' He felt sorry for Raymond, who clearly wasn't very brave. But there was nothing to be done about that right now. They needed a new plan. 'George, you know your way around these woods, don't you?' he asked.

'I've been coming here since before I could walk,' George told him. 'I know every single pathway like the back of my hand.'

'Right,' decided Julian. 'In that case, let's wait for a bit so they think we've sailed away to Kirrin Island.'

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Discussion Questions:

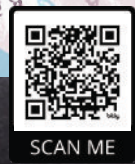
- How do Julian, Dick, Anne, and George feel when Raymond explains that the treasure is real? What does their reaction tell us about their personalities?
- Why does Raymond look "shamefaced" when he explains why he was sent to Kirrin Cottage? What does this reveal about his feelings?
- Why do you think Dick reacts so enthusiastically to the news of treasure? How is his reaction different from Julian's?
- Why does George ask Raymond, "And you never tried to stand up to them, or fetch help?" What does this tell you about her character?
- What does Julian's statement, "Chin up," suggest about his character and how he feels about Raymond?



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EXTRACT 3:

TAKEN FROM CHAPTER 18: The Mystery of Kirrin Cave

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Still looking carefully in all directions, George led them to the very top of the hill and squeezed carefully between two of the larger bushes. Carefully avoiding the sharp thorns, they followed to find her lifting up a wooden hatch set into the floor. 'I put this here a few years back,' she said, 'in case anybody came snooping. I wouldn't want them finding the cave by accident.'

Maddy gasped. 'Is this the one you discovered all those years ago?' she asked.

'Of course,' said George. 'We'll go one by one! I'll bring you, boy.' She scooped Gilbert up under one arm, and he was too startled to protest. George sat on the edge of the opening and, with her other hand, reached for a rope-ladder that dangled from the cave roof. 'We used to use a bit of knotted rope,' she explained, 'but I find this easier these days.' And she swung herself deftly down, landing with a thump on the sandy floor. Tom followed, then Maddy, and Fran brought up the rear, carefully closing the wooden hatch behind her.

The cave looked out over the rocks at the back of Kirrin Island. It was airy and cool, and felt immediately

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welcoming, almost as if it had been waiting for them. 'You still come out here?' asked Maddy, looking around her. There was a large cool box and a kitbag stashed on a natural shelf of rock in one corner.

'Why wouldn't I?' asked George, rummaging in the bag and bringing out a small camping stove.

'Well, you know, you're a . . . a grown-up,' said Maddy. 'Grown-ups don't normally go on adventures to deserted islands.'

'More's the pity,' replied George with a sniff. 'I come here all the time. This island has been my second home since long before you were born. Now, we'll sneak out in a moment and see where Raymond's hiding himself. But first and most importantly . . .' She turned the little plastic handle on the stove. There was a clicking and a small *whumpf* as a blue flame sparked into life. 'Another cup of tea.' She fetched a kettle from the bag and a bottle of water from the cool box.

'Are hot drinks a major part of this process then?' Tom wanted to know.

'All good adventures start with a cup of tea,' George told him.

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Discussion Questions:

- Why does George carefully check in all directions before leading the group to the cave?
- Why does George explain the rope-ladder by saying, "I find this easier these days"? What does that tell you about her?
- What does the description of the cave being "airy and cool" and "almost as if it had been waiting for them" suggest about its importance to George and the group?
- Why is Maddy surprised that George still visits the island, and what does George's response say about her character?
- What do you think George means when she says the island has been her "second home since long before you were born"?



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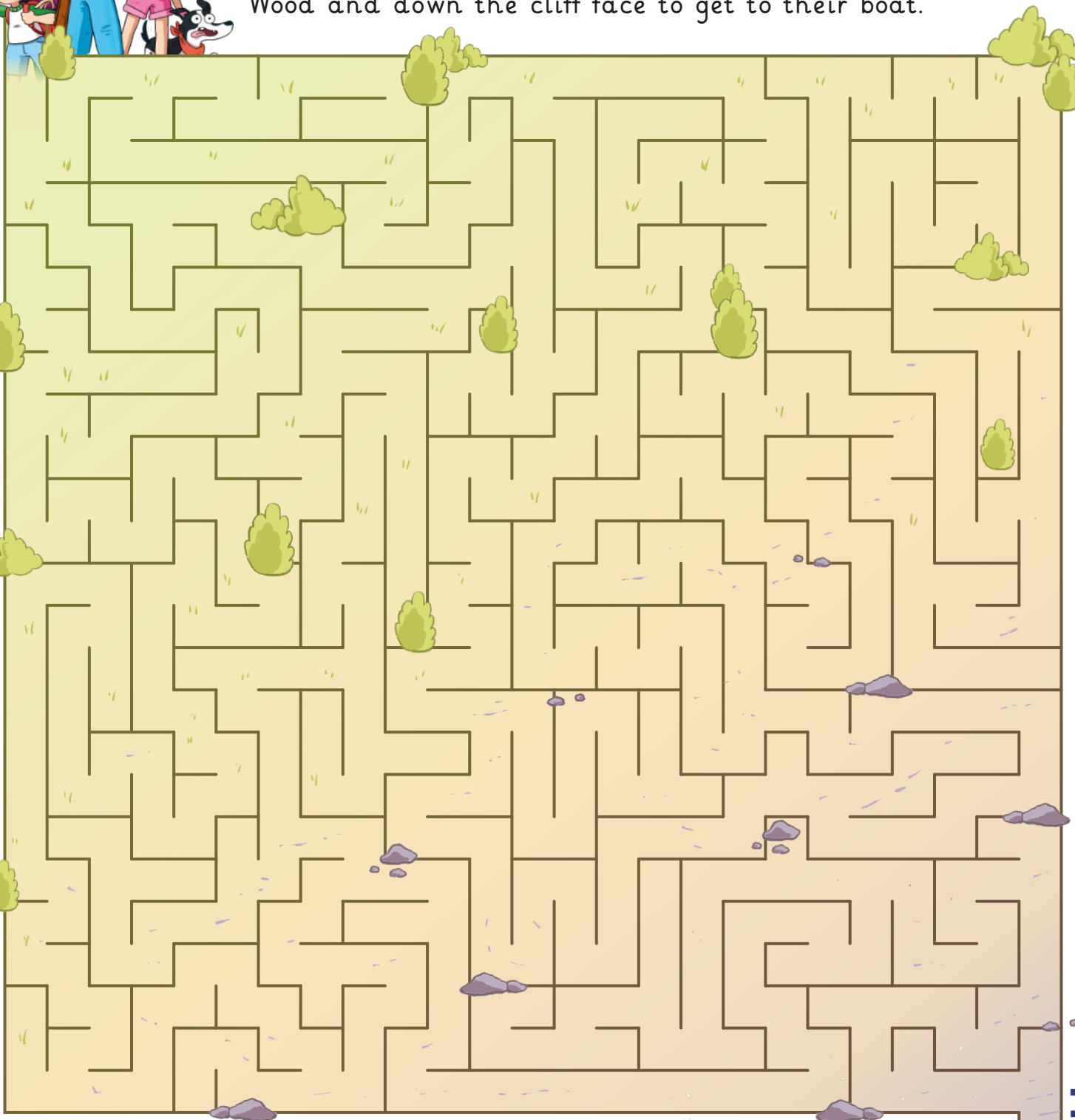


WHISPERING WOOD MAZE

THE NEW
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FIVE AND THE FORGOTTEN TREASURE
BY CHRIS SMITH
INSPIRED BY ENID BLYTON

Help the New Famous Five find a route through the Whispering Wood and down the cliff face to get to their boat.

START



FINISH



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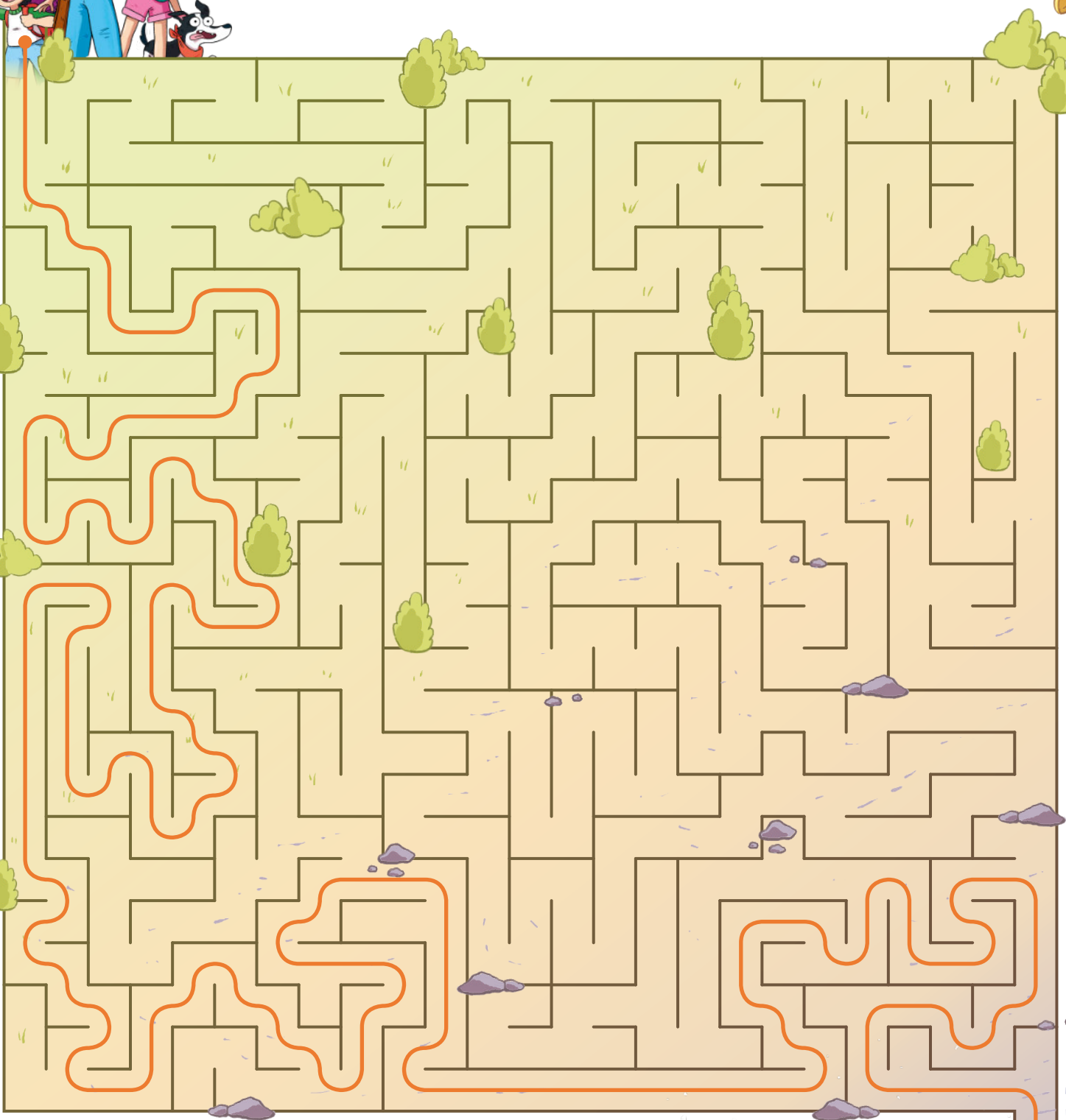
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WHISPERING WOOD MAZE

ANSWERS

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START



FINISH

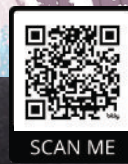


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WORDSEARCH

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Cross out each word as you find it.

E	R	A	A	G	D	D	T	Y	N	Y	W	H
V	J	I	N	A	I	L	U	J	I	S	O	U
N	J	M	D	N	O	M	Y	A	R	L	R	D
D	M	L	T	R	E	A	S	U	R	E	R	I
N	A	R	F	D	N	A	L	S	I	M	A	C
E	R	U	T	N	E	V	D	A	K	A	B	K
D	I	O	M	Y	S	T	E	R	Y	D	V	J
N	M	P	V	F	O	B	O	E	N	D	C	C
E	P	Z	P	P	J	L	E	I	W	Y	M	A
Y	E	B	D	I	S	G	E	O	R	G	E	V
N	T	E	E	J	R	L	I	D	T	G	D	E

ADVENTURE

ANNE

BARROW

CAVE

DICK

FRAN

GEORGE

ISLAND

JULIAN

KIRRIN

MADDY

MYSTERY

RAYMOND

TOM

TREASURE



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WORDSEARCH

ANSWERS

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E	R	A	A	G	D	D	T	Y	N	Y	W	H
V	J	I	N	A	I	L	U	J	I	S	O	U
N	J	M	D	N	O	M	Y	A	R	L	R	D
D	M	L	T	R	E	A	S	U	R	E	R	I
N	A	R	F	D	N	A	L	S	I	M	A	C
E	R	U	T	N	E	V	D	A	K	A	B	K
D	I	O	M	Y	S	T	E	R	Y	D	V	J
N	M	P	V	F	O	B	O	E	N	D	C	C
E	P	Z	P	P	J	L	E	I	W	Y	M	A
Y	E	B	D	I	S	G	E	O	R	G	E	V
N	T	E	E	J	R	L	I	D	T	G	D	E

ADVENTURE

ANNE

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ISLAND

JULIAN

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MYSTERY

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