

Escape to McMurtrie – Final Hint Sheet

ONLY READ THIS IF YOU WANT TO SEE HOW EACH CLUE IS SOLVED!

If you haven't solved each clue, this will tell you our thought process for solving each one. We won't give you the answer though! You'll still need to head to the woods to find the corresponding letter blocks.

Clue 1	Searching that hashtag, you'll see the original tweet: "Fun in the sun on the roof of Larry Bird's house in the prairie! #firstmcmurtrieclue2019" Larry Bird is the official name of the twitter logo - a cute blue bird. He would live in a bluebird house. Check them out in the prairies! One of the roofs has a letter block on it.
Clue 2	On the album cover of Help! The Beatles aren't actually spelling "HELP". It's NUJV. That's your hint to convert the clock hands to letters using semaphores. That will spell directions to the letter block. (B E H I N D T H E P A I N T E D R O C K) Find the painted rock at the end of one of the trails.
Clue 3	Post 15 talks about the buckthorn - the final word to the limerick. If you head to Post 15, one of the letter blocks is pinned to a buckthorn tree.
Clue 4	Solve the cryptogram after the initial G = T (it's also a simpler A = Z, Z = A cryptogram). You'll get a nice John Muir quote to start off your hunt: <u>KEEP CLOSE TO NATURE'S HEART</u> AND BREAK CLEAR AWAY, ONCE IN A WHILE, AND CLIMB A MOUNTAIN OR SPEND A WEEK IN THE WOODS. From there, head to the heart on your map, Post Number 5. You'll find your letter block.
Clue 5	Post 1 and 11 both talk about populus trees, but there aren't any good stands there. The map shows two stands of trees with white trunks – a telltale poplar tree sign – one near the lake, just northwest of the bridge, and another along the southern edge of the prairie. The prairie populous populus populace has your letter block! (It's not far from Larry Bird's house.) The poplar stand by the lake was just a "red herring".
Clue 6	"Mr. Vigenere" is a hint to look up a Vigenere Cipher. It's a code that requires a key word to crack. From the map, you can see that Mr. Vigenere has a hand-written note that he keeps the key in the pavilion. In the pavilion, you'll find a sign telling you "The key to life is APPLES". Using APPLES as a key in a Vigenere cipher, you'll find that the clue can be found UNDERNEATH A PICNIC TABLE. There are a few picnic tables on the property's camp sites!
Clue 7	Sorry if this was too tough... We wanted to really work left and right brain! Playing the musical notes, you'll hopefully hear "America the Beautiful". The missing notes are F (black), G (blue) and E (red). "Make good time" is a short cut for you if you know that 4,4 is 16 beats per stanza. (Post 16) The words are jumbled, and you can replace the colored question marks with corresponding F, G and E. Unjumbling gives you "EMBARK TOWARD WHERE IRONIC FETCHING STICK FOUND". That alone can give you direction if you're clever with the guidebook, but the underlined letters tell you something additional. ATROTND are the initial underlined letters, but that doesn't mean much. Those letter locations in the *new* words are: ODWOGOD. Unjumbling that spells "DOGWOOD"... which certainly would be an ironic choice of stick to play fetch with. Post 16 talks about the gray dogwood. Head there!
Clue 8	Red Hot being capitalized is your hint that those words are important. "Take me to the place I love" are lyrics to the Red Hot Chili Peppers song, "Under the Bridge". Find the bridge, find the letter block. Bonus points (or a quicker solve) if you know the track number from the album hinted at in the spelling of the word "magik".
Clue 9	Solving the Sudoku finds the numbers 6 4 8 7 3 1 2 9 5 to correspond to the order of colored blocks. "Follow the instructions", the bolded first words, and the 9. were hints to look back at the instruction sheet, conveniently numbered 1-9. The first letter of 6 4 8 7 3 1 2 9 5 spells out P O S T N O. T W O, or "Post No. Two". Head to Post Number 2 for this one!
Clue 10	The chemical reaction can be balanced as: $6 \text{CO}_2 + 6 \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_6 + 6 \text{O}_2$ Both H-12 and O-2 are possible letter blocks. Seriously. Just go to Post #7 for this one. (H12 is at a different post, and hopefully it's an answer you found for a different puzzle this week!)
Clue 11	It's a simple pictogram - Maine, Ten Ants, Shed. Maintenance Shed. You'll see a letter block by the shed at the end of Maintenance Road.
Clue 12	On the map, you see a border comprised of ones and zeros: 01000111 01101111 00100000 01110100 01101111 00100000 01010000 01101111 01110011 01110100 00100000 01001110 01110101 01101101 01100010 01100101 01110010 00100000 00110100 Pop this into a binary translator and "Go to Post Number 4"

Remember that each week you have tools you can use! Don't forget the instructions, map and Trail Guide.

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Week 1: Larry Bird's bed, perhaps

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{N} \\ \hline 3 \\ \text{Clue 1} \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \text{E} \\ \hline 7 \\ \text{Clue 2} \end{array} \times \begin{array}{c} \text{S} \\ \hline 6 \\ \text{Clue 3} \end{array} - \begin{array}{c} \text{T} \\ \hline 17 \\ \text{Clue 4} \end{array} =$$

Week 2: Snack for a banditry

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{S} \\ \hline 20 \\ \text{Clue 5} \end{array} - \begin{array}{c} \text{U} \\ \hline 5 \\ \text{Clue 6} \end{array} \overset{2}{\times} \begin{array}{c} \text{E} \\ \hline 18 \\ \text{Clue 7} \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \text{T} \\ \hline 11 \\ \text{Clue 8} \end{array} =$$

Week 3: Scary-sounding frost?

$$\frac{1}{2} \begin{array}{c} \text{H} \\ \hline 12 \\ 9. \end{array} \sqrt{\quad} - \begin{array}{c} \text{O} \\ \hline 2 \\ \text{Clue 10} \end{array} - \begin{array}{c} \text{A} \\ \hline 8 \\ \text{Clue 11} \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \text{R} \\ \hline 19 \\ \text{Clue 12} \end{array} =$$

Your final code:

Don't mix up the letters until you have all 12!
You'll find the medallion in a rosy corner of the property.

S O U T H E A S T E R N