The Master Timeline

Before the Murder

Guests arrive as heavy rain begins.	3:30–6:00	6:30	Cocktails in the drawing room.
Dinner is served.	7:30	8:35	Edmund reveals *The Blackwood Record* and his midnight deadline.
Mercer distributes eight sealed appointments.	8:45	8:55–10:15	Eight private meetings; Miriam leaves last and reports Edmund is alive.

Murder & Discovery

The guests disperse; several alibis become incomplete.	10:20	10:30–10:45	Interval to investigate; compare the accounts.
The electric lights flicker for about one minute.	10:38	10:42	A heavy sound is heard near the library wing.
Clara prepares coffee, then finds the library locked.	10:55–11:00	11:03–11:08	Mercer attempts the door; it is forced five minutes later.
Clock found showing 10:37; time of death unproven.	11:08	11:15–MIDNIGHT	Miriam examines Edmund. The telephone and road fail. Wren arrives after midnight.

Which accounts have gaps during 10:30–10:45? _____

What evidence supports or contradicts it? _____

Which times are observed, and which are reported? _____

EVIDENCE LEDGER

Record clues from the shared story and your assigned case report.
Note where each appears, what you observed, and why it matters.

CASE SEAL

CASE NUMBER:

CLUE	WHERE FOUND	OBSERVATION	WHY IT MATTERS	
				1
				2
				3
				4
				5
				6
				7
				8

STRONGEST EVIDENCE:

Suspect & Motive Grid

Use evidence; mark unproven ideas as possibilities.



Eleanor Blackwood

Motive:

Means:

Opportunity:



Lydia Blackwood

Motive:

Means:

Opportunity:



Julien Laurent

Motive:

Means:

Opportunity:



Arthur Bellamy

Motive:

Means:

Opportunity:

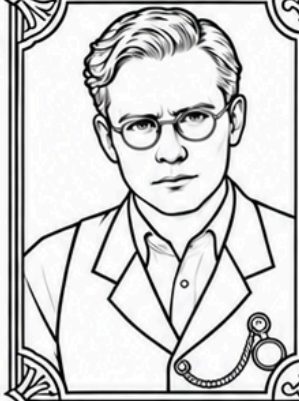


Lorraine Ashcombe

Motive:

Means:

Opportunity:



Thomas Reed

Motive:

Means:

Opportunity:



Dr. Miriam Hart

Motive:

Means:

Opportunity:



Gabriel Laurent

Motive:

Means:

Opportunity:

TEST THE ACCOUNTS

Compare each claim with the shared evidence and your assigned report.
A contradiction deserves investigation; it does not prove murder.

ELEANOR BLACKWOOD

THEIR CLAIM:

EVIDENCE / QUESTION:

LYDIA BLACKWOOD

THEIR CLAIM:

EVIDENCE / QUESTION:

JULIEN LAURENT

THEIR CLAIM:

EVIDENCE / QUESTION:

ARTHUR BELLAMY

THEIR CLAIM:

EVIDENCE / QUESTION:

LORRAINE ASHCOMBE

THEIR CLAIM:

EVIDENCE / QUESTION:

THOMAS REED

THEIR CLAIM:

EVIDENCE / QUESTION:

DR. MIRIAM HART

THEIR CLAIM:

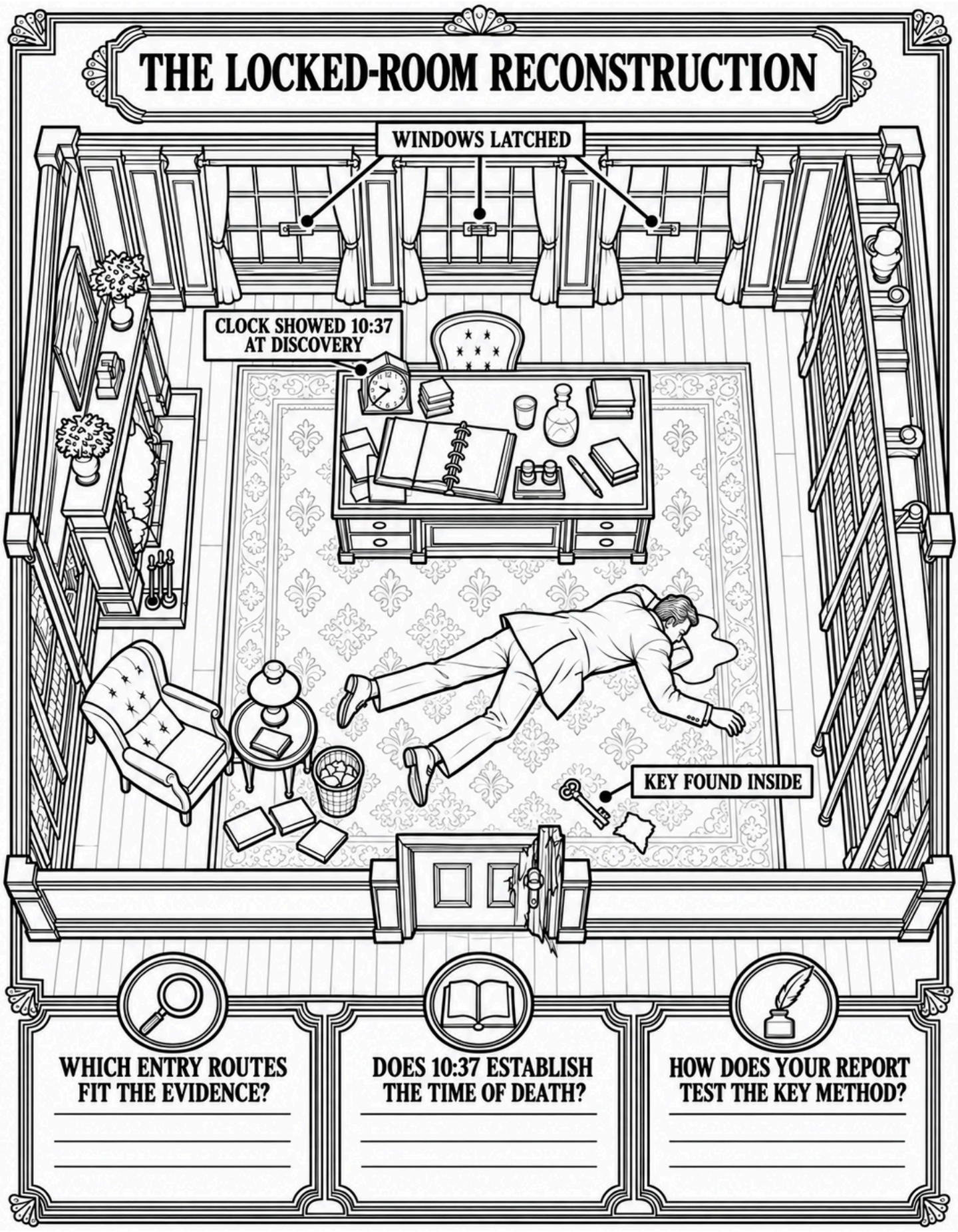
EVIDENCE / QUESTION:

GABRIEL LAURENT

THEIR CLAIM:

EVIDENCE / QUESTION:

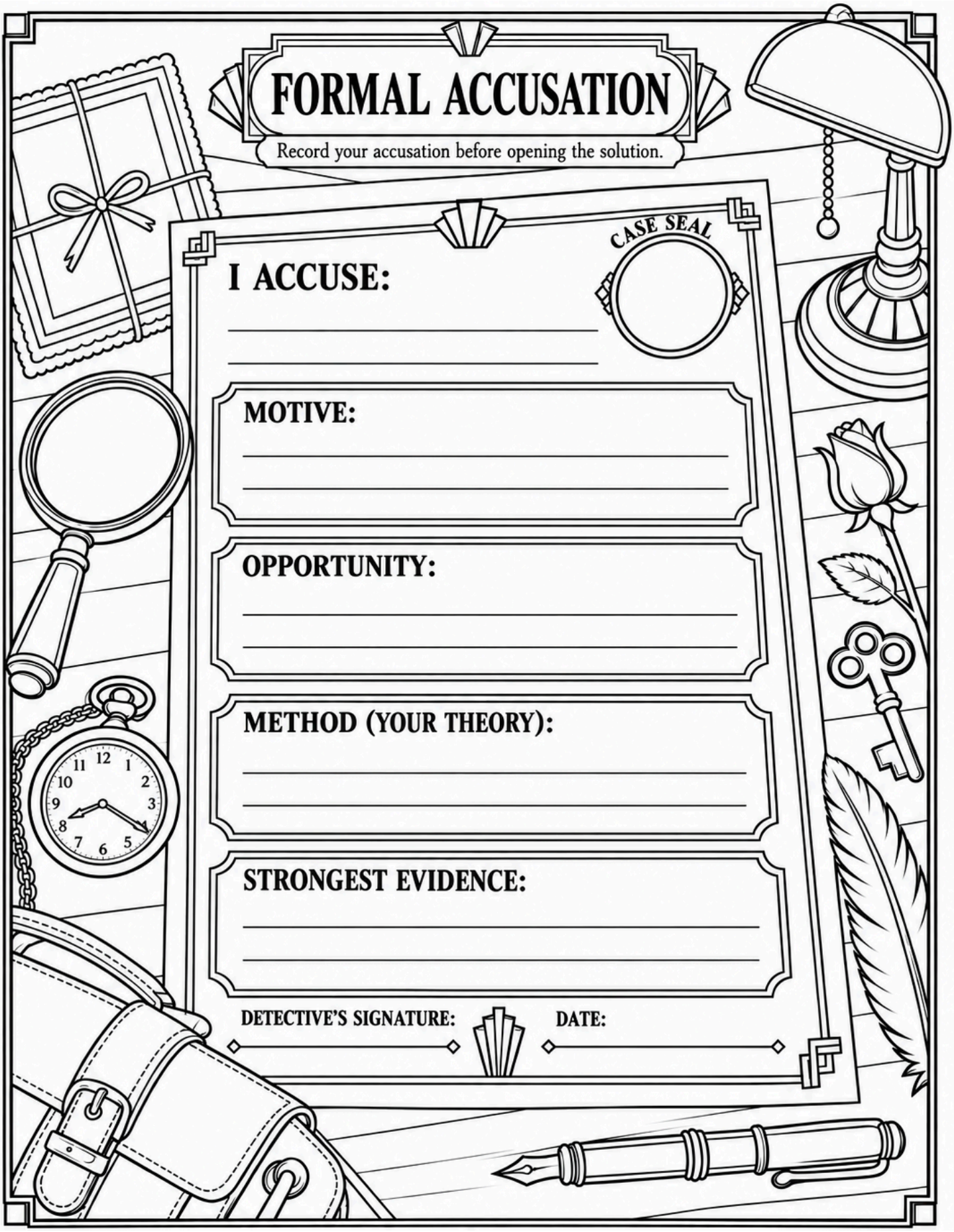
THE LOCKED-ROOM RECONSTRUCTION



WHICH ENTRY ROUTES FIT THE EVIDENCE?

DOES 10:37 ESTABLISH THE TIME OF DEATH?

HOW DOES YOUR REPORT TEST THE KEY METHOD?


FORMAL ACCUSATION
Record your accusation before opening the solution.
CASE SEAL
I ACCUSE:
MOTIVE:
OPPORTUNITY:
METHOD (YOUR THEORY):
STRONGEST EVIDENCE:
DETECTIVE'S SIGNATURE:
DATE: