The After-Hours Note

THE AFTER-HOURS NOTE / FREE MINI CASE

1-5 players / ages 6+ with a reader / about 10 minutes

Before you play

01 Print this file on US Letter paper at actual size. Keep this setup page to yourself. Cut the player cards along the dashed lines.

02 The table lists where to put each numbered card, not where to find its answer. Hand card 01 to players. Place Case Closed at the final stop.

03 For example: card 01 answers DOOR, so put card 02 by the door. Card 02 answers SOCK, so put card 03 in the sock.

04 Use one obvious, reachable object for each stop. If an object is missing, write its name on an envelope, put the card inside, and set the envelope at a different reachable spot. For tabletop play, use labeled envelopes for every stop.

05 Tell players: solve each card, then check the matching object or envelope for the next card. Keep cards in order. Give hints if needed.

Placement and answer key

CARD	PLACE IT	ANSWER
01 START	hand to players	**DOOR**
02 DOOR	beside an interior doorway that can stay open	**SOCK**
03 SOCK	inside a clean sock on a table or chair	**BOOK**
Case Closed	beside a closed book	**Solved**

Host hints

01 What swings on hinges and rhymes with snore?

02 The last letter becomes the first. It is something you wear.

03 The words are umbrella, clock, door and sock.

Player cards

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START / CLUE 01

The after-hours note

The silver key is missing! Solve the rhyme, then find and keep the card at that object.

I swing with a push, I shut with a snore.
The hallway begins when you open the _____.

CLUE 02

The backward label

A label in the key cabinet was printed backward. Read it from right to left.

K C O S

CLUE 03

The four missing letters

Fill in each missing letter. Read the missing letters left to right, starting with the first row.

UM_RELLA CL_CK
D_OR SOC_

CASE CLOSED

The mystery is solved

You found the silver key beside the guidebook. It had slipped out while the curator was checking tomorrow's tour. The museum can open its doors. First case closed!