



Reading Spies with Maz Evans

EXTRA RESOURCE FOR VIDEO 3: SPIDER AGENTS

www.maz.world
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CREATED BY: Shapes for Schools



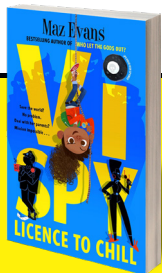
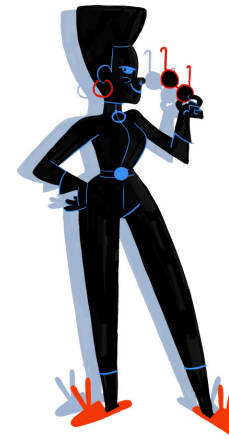
chickenhousebooks.com

Rimmington Hall challenge: Truth and Lies



Use this introductory Lie Detector Game to get Reading Spies back into the spying zone! Can they develop an all-important spy skill: detecting a truth from a lie?

- Get into teams of three. Each team will be given a topic to prepare, to talk about for one minute. One person in the team will be telling the truth and talking about something that really happened. The other two will make something up about that topic.
- You have five minutes to prepare your stories.
- When you are ready, it's time to tell your stories! Your classmates will have to guess/work out which person is telling the true story.
- Some topics might be:
 - An event that happened at breaktime
 - A strange Christmas present
 - An interesting package that arrived in the post

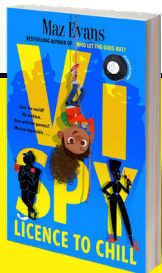


Getting into the Case: Secret Disguises



This video from Maz is all about secret SPIDER agents, their undercover code names and their Spy Disguises. What inventive disguises can the Reading Spies come up with?

- To be a truly successful spy, you have to be a master of disguise! In what ways can you disguise yourself? Discuss with a partner.
- When you're carrying out a top secret mission, it's important to blend in to the scene that you're investigating. For example, if you're at a football match, looking for a villain like Umbra, you might decide to wear a football shirt and a scarf like the home fans so as not to draw any suspicious glances.
- Think of a setting of your own and keep it secret from your classmates. Then, think of the perfect disguise for that setting. Draw it or describe it in a piece of writing. Can your classmates guess which setting you had in mind for your disguise? This will be the true test of whether your disguise has been successful, or not ...



Top Secret Extract



Time to read along with Maz! This extract is taken from Chapter 6 of VI SPY: LICENCE TO CHILL.

'Are we secure?' Honey asked once the back door had closed behind Mr Sprout.

Easter nodded. Honey went to the cupboard under the sink – where apparently a fully-grown man had been hiding the entire time. In fact, he wasn't that fully grown, he was rather short with too much hair for his small head. His brown hair sprouted out of his lined white face like brown leaves on an out-of-date parsnip, a bushy moustache adding an unnecessary extra layer of hair over his lip. He was edgy and nervous, his head twitching as he took in every detail of their unremarkable kitchen in his better-fitting black suit.

'We have a door,' said Easter flatly as Honey opened the ironing board cupboard, to reveal a second man. He was similar in stature to the first, dressed entirely in black, including his long leather coat and an eye patch over his left eye, leaving his right to slowly survey everything in the room as he limped out of the cupboard. The small amount of visible brown skin on his face and hands was scarred and marked and Vi wasn't sure, but it looked as though his right hand only had four fingers.

'What are you doing here?' Easter sighed.

'SPIDER protocol dictates that agents should conceal themselves wherever possible,' said the parsnip.

'Easter – this is my new boss, Walter Toppington,' Honey introduced.

'Code names only, Agent Unicorn!' the parsnip chided, pulling some papers out of his briefcase.

'Sorry,' bumbled Honey nervously. 'Lynx, this is The Cardinal ...'

'It's Susan,' Mum corrected firmly as she shook the carrot's hand. 'Lynx retired ten years ago.'

Vi nodded admiringly. Agent Lynx. That was a cool spy name.

'Protocol dictates that only code names are to be used between SPIDER operatives,' The Cardinal snapped. 'I'd expect an agent of your calibre to

remember that, Lynx.'

'And this,' said Honey, pushing her glasses up her nose nervously as she gestured to the other man, 'is Isaac Payne – I mean, this is The Wolf.'

Easter went to shake hands, but The Wolf simply nodded at her. Vi looked at the three SPIDER agents standing in a row in the kitchen. They were all of similar height and build – SPIDER clearly had a type.

'What do you think you're doing?' came her nan's voice, making Vi jump. She tried to switch the screen off.

'Um ... er ... nothing ... just watching ... some ... TV.'

Nan raised an eyebrow.

'Never kid a kidder, kid,' she said, sitting down on the bed. 'I meant, why didn't you wait for me? Give me one of those.'

Nan settled an earphone in her ear and looked intently at the screen.

'So, what can I do for you?' Easter asked cautiously.

The Cardinal nodded at Honey B.

'OK,' said Honey, taking a deep breath. 'Easter ... Susan ... I don't know how to tell you this, but we've received intelligence at SPIDER that someone from your past has resurfaced. I wanted you to be the first to know.'

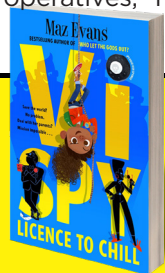
'Well, you're a bit late,' said Easter, taking a sip of her coffee. 'You saw the wedding – I'm painfully aware that Robert is back and thinks he can just swan in and turn Vi's life upside—'

'Not Robert,' said Honey grimly. 'Umbra.'

The screen was a little grainy and the picture was unfocused. But Vi could still see the blood drain from her mother's face.

'No,' she whispered. 'That's not possible. I ...'

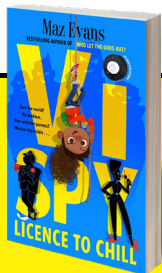
'... shot Umbra into piranha-infested waters at an exploding power station ten years ago,' Honey interrupted. 'I know. But somehow it looks like Umbra survived. And is back in business.'



I Spy: Extra Reading Clues and Questions



1. How does Maz Evans make the description of 'the parsnip' funny?
2. Do you agree that the SPIDER agency 'clearly has a type'? What is it?
3. What is Mum's reaction to the news about Umbra? How does Mum feel about it?
4. How can you tell that Mum is a very experienced spy?
5. How do you think it makes Vi feel to meet all of the SPIDER agents?



Maz's Mission: Your Spy Identity

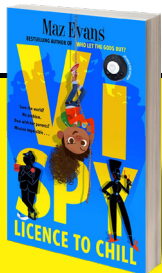


We are introduced to a few of the SPIDER agents in the extract. Can pupils work out all of their undercover code names and spy identities?

- In the video, Maz tells us that her special code name would be: *Mummy Long Legs!* She also tells us that all of the spy names in her book are named after spiders. Can you think of any more? What would yours be? Why?
- Create your very own Spy Identity, inspired by the SPIDER special agents in the extract. Include your code name, your secret mission, your gadgets, and your special undercover disguise!
- Complete your own Special Agent Profile. How will you defeat your Evil Villain and protect everyone you love from their plan of world domination?



SPY KIT: the My Special Agent Profile Template!



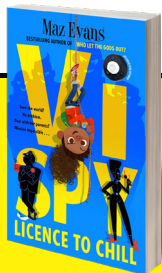
Extra Mission: Spy Gadgets



In the story, Vi is given a special spy watch by her nan. This intriguing gadget is called an Eye-Spy. Can pupils come up with their own secret spy gadgets?

- In one minute write down all the spy gadgets you can think of – e.g. night vision goggles or hidden cameras. Share your ideas with the class.
- Spies often use ordinary objects to disguise gadgets. For example, a normal-looking umbrella might also have a poisoned spike; a lipstick tube might transform into a pen with special powers.
- What gadget could you make with:
 - A pencil
 - A glove
 - A bike
- Create your own Spy Gadget, a bit like Vi's Eye-Spy – an amazing spy watch with special powers! Imagine you are sending your gadget to be designed by a special Spy Agency. Make sure that your design is as clear as possible, with lots of labels and annotations about how it will work.

SPY KIT: the My Spy Gadget Template!





Don't forget to add all of your work to your special TOP SECRET Reading Spy File. Make sure that you keep everything safe in preparation for all of your future spy missions.

Good luck! I'm looking forward to seeing you again soon, and remember, as VI would say ... keep spying, but stay CHILL.

Over and out, Spies!

Maz

