The Spybrarian Activities

Jon Mayhew
Did you know there are many different types of book? These are called genres. Many people enjoy different genres. With an adult cut out the fortune teller template below. Colour in the sections as you wish and fill in the 8 blank triangles with your favourite genres of books from the list below. The fiction teller will then help you, your family and friends choose your next brilliant book!

- Mystery
- Historical
- Family
- Horror
- Comedy
- Fairy Tales
- Facts
- Sports
- Adventure
- Classic
- Poetry
- Thrillers
- Animal
- Science Fiction
- Biography
- Ghost
- Fantasy
- Short Stories
FICTION TELLER

Red  2  3  Blue

1  4

8  5

Yellow  7  Green
Some of the most fun books to read are the ones that make us laugh. Did you know joke books are found in the non-fiction section of libraries and are shelved at 818 in the Dewey Decimal system along with Riddles?

Have you come across any joke book titles and authors? Here are a dozen, can you create any of your own to add to a library of laughter?

- **Death on the Cliff** by Eileen Dover
- **Bubbles in the Bathtub** by Ivor Windy-Bottom
- **French Cuisine and Cooking** by Sue Flay
- **How to be Happy** by I M Jolly
- **Pottery through the Ages** by Terry Cotter
- **True Crime** by Robin Banks
Captain Badd is one of the main villains in The Spybrarian. Villains often have evil plans that they aim to carry out. Below is a list of villains from some famous children’s books, can you match the names with their dastardly deeds? Do you know which books these characters feature in?

A) Lord Voldemort

1) A criminal mastermind who is tall, thinkand is a master of disguise. He plots to steal the Baudelaire Fortune.

B) Cruella de Vil

2) The brutal, child-hating headmistress of Crunchem Hall School. A former Olympic shot-putter, she uses her skills to throw children when she is not placing them into the Chokey.

C) The White Witch

3) Has a deep dislike for Muggle-born wizards and sets up an army of witches, wizards and magical creatures to destroy them.

D) Shere Khan

4) The Queen of Charn, she was banished by Aslan and put a curse on the land of Narnia which saw it enter a hundred years of snow and ice.

E) Count Olaf

5) This follower of high fashion will stop at nothing to get a new coat regardless of how many poor animals have to be skinned to create it.

F) Miss Truchbull

6) A failed attempt by this striped and wounded creature to hunt humans means a human cub is brought up by wolves.
‘I must have fallen asleep at some point because the next thing I knew, Prissy was looming over me, holding a hamster in each hand and kicking me in the thigh.’ (P97)

Prissy has two Battle Hamsters, Cecil and Bertie, who nibble with extreme prejudice. Using a pair of old socks why not create your own Battle Hamsters? What special skills will you equip them with and what will they be named?
Paige Turner’s mobile library is able to fly. All of its travel in winds and rain means it needs a new paint job. Can you create your own special Secret Library Service design and colour this in before Paige, Kian, Prissy and Asif arrive at SLS HQ?

Did you know the design and colours of a company are called its livery, create your own special library livery with this activity!
Kian sees some signs in the post office window (page 20), these refer to children’s book characters. Can you create a missing person/creature poster for one of your favourite book characters? Your poster will need a picture of them and a description of how they look and where they were last seen.
**Discussion Points**

- Kian’s mum and Anthony are keen to save the local library. Why do you think this is? Research the types of materials, events and activities which are available through your local library. What do you think is special about libraries?

- How does Kian treat Anthony? What might the reasons be for why Kian doesn’t get on that well with Anthony? Do you feel this changes through the book?

- Kian’s dad says he would choose invisibility as his super power. What would you pick and why? How might you use your new skills to combat Doctor Badd?

- Kian becomes a super reader, can you think of examples of when this might be useful?

- What is in the SLS HQ instruction manual and why do F.A.R.T. Want it so badly?

- Page 18 mentions ellipsis missiles. Research what an ellipsis is, what other kind of punctuation gadgets can you invent for the SLS?

**Further Reading:**

If you have enjoyed The Spybrarian, why not look out for these other brilliant books?

Philip Caveney The Book of Secrets  
Gillian Cross The Demon Headteacher  
Geogia Byng Molly Moon’s Incredible Book of Hypnotism  
A J Hartley Monsters in the Mirror  
Anna James Tilly and the Book Wanderers