

SPY MUSEUM BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



YOUR MISSION...immerse yourself in the secret world of spying and enjoy some of our favorite spy books (fiction and nonfiction) for all grades and reading levels. Happy reading!

Please note that the grade levels listed below are only suggestions. Many of these books are available for purchase at spymuseumstore.org.



PRE-K to 2nd GRADE

REDCOATS AND PETTICOATS by Katherine Kirkpatrick

Based on actual events and real people, this picture book introduces kids to the lesser known history of the Revolutionary War.

OLIVIA THE SPY by Ian Falconer

Olivia uses her spy skills to try to figure out special birthday plans in this fun read!

SPY BUSTERS SERIES by Ellen Lewis

These graphic novels follow Kayla and Tim as they use their spy skills to solve mysteries in Washington, DC, including at the International Spy Museum!

LITTLE PEOPLE, BIG DREAMS: ALAN TURING by Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara

Learn about Alan Turing, the genius code cracker and father of theoretical computer science.

3rd GRADE to 6th GRADE



CHESTER NEZ AND THE UNBREAKABLE CODE: A NAVAJO CODE TALKER'S STORY by Joseph Bruchac

An engaging historical read about the importance of sticking up for your values.

UPON SECRECY by Selene Castrovilla

Learn about the Culper Spy Ring played in America's victory in the Revolutionary War.

THE SECRET SERIES by Pseudonymous Bosch

Fun read for anyone who loves secrets and adventures!

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE SERIES: SPIES by various authors

Interactive adventure books in which YOU decide what happens next! The "Spies" series includes books about James Armistead Lafayette, Mata Hari, and Noor Inayat Khan.



3rd GRADE to 6th GRADE (cont.)

NERDS SERIES by Michael Buckley

Funny, action-packed series with a fifth grade spy ring at its center.

THE CODE BUSTERS CLUB SERIES by Penny Warner

Interactive mysteries that include codes and puzzles for readers to practice their code cracking skills!

THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR EXPERIENCE by Elizabeth Raum and Marty Gitlin

Interactive story where readers choose the path of historical events and see how their decisions affect the outcome of the Revolutionary War.

ONE DEAD SPY (NATHAN HALE'S HAZARDOUS TALES) by Nathan Hale

This graphic novel offers a unique way to learn about the events during and leading up to the Revolutionary War.

H.I.V.E. SERIES by Mark Walden

Action, adventure, and friendship make this series a real page-turner!

HARRY POTTER AND THE ART OF SPYING: YOUNG AGENT EDITION by Lynn Boughey and Peter Earnest

Love Harry Potter? Look at these books in a whole new way - as a spy!

LIAR AND SPY by Rebecca Stead

A story of friendship with spying and mystery sprinkled in.

SPY SCHOOL SERIES by Stuart Gibbs

Readers follow awkward twelve-year-old Ben Ripley as he attends a spy school for kids created by the CIA.

THE MYSTERIOUS BENEDICT SOCIETY SERIES by Treton Lee Stewart

Gifted, specially-trained kids go undercover at a school run by a criminal mastermind. Readers will use their own skills to help the kids solve clues.

HARRIET THE SPY by Louise Fitzhugh

A classic for anyone who loves spying!



3rd GRADE to 6th GRADE (cont.)

ANATOLIA STEPPE MYSTERY SERIES by Kathy Dennis and Melissa Mahle

Action-packed, page-turning stories that follow eleven-year-old Anatolia on her many adventures. Co-authored by a former CIA “spy”!

SECRETS AND SPIES SERIES by Jo Macauley

A fast-paced series and great way to introduce young readers to 17th century English history through the adventures of three teenage spies.

JUNIOR SPIES SERIES by Kathy Dennis and Melissa Mahle

All is not as it seems at this camp for teens that is actually a secret training center for spies!

THE BOOKS OF ELSEWHERE SERIES by Jacqueline West

A spooky series that will keep young readers on the edge of their seat!

I, Q SERIES by Roland Smith

Follow Quest and his step-sister, Angela, as they try to solve a family mystery while dealing with spies with conflicting agendas.

SOPHIA'S WAR: A TALE OF THE REVOLUTION by Avi

Wonderful historical fiction looking at the Revolutionary War through the eyes of a 12 year-old spy.

MRS. SMITH'S SPY SCHOOL FOR GIRLS SERIES by Beth McMullen

Abby discovers her boarding school is actually an elite spy-training program, and she must learn the skills of the trade in order to find her mother.

CITY SPIES by James Ponti

Operating out of a base in Scotland, the City Spies are five kids who hone their unique skills allowing them to go to places in the world of espionage where adults can't!

SHADOW WARRIOR: BASED ON THE TRUE STORY OF A FEARLESS NINJA AND HER NETWORK OF FEMALE SPIES by Tanya Lloyd Kyi

Stunning illustrations and an engaging storyline introduces readers to Mochizuki Chiyome, a young woman determined to become a ninja.

THE FAITHFUL SPY by John Hendrix

Story of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who during World War II became convinced that Hitler and the Nazi Party needed to be stopped--and he was willing to sacrifice anything and everything to do so.



7th GRADE and 8th GRADE

THE ALEX RIDER SERIES by Anthony Horowitz

An exciting series following fourteen-year-old spy, Alex Rider, on his many missions.

YOUNG BOND SERIES by Charlie Higson

Meet James Bond before he becomes 007.

ALIBI JUNIOR HIGH BY Greg Logsted

The son of a secret agent takes on his hardest mission: junior high!

NATHAN FOX: DANGEROUS TIMES by Lynn Brittney

An exciting tale that combines Queen Elizabeth's secret spy ring with Shakespeare.

GALLAGHER GIRLS SERIES by Ally Carter

On the surface Gallagher Academy seems like an elite all-girls school for gifted students, but, it's actually a training institution for future female spies.

CHERUB SERIES by Robert Muchamore

Discover a secret division of the British Security Service called CHERUB which employs children as intelligence agents.

CODE TALKER by Joseph Bruchac

An incredible tale of Ned Begay, a sixteen-year-old Navajo boy who becomes a code talker. Inspired by the real-life Navajo Code Talkers of World War II and their stories.

SEKRET SERIES by Lindsay Smith

A Communist Russia thriller with a mind reading protagonist who is recruited by the KGB.

ORPHAN MONSTER SPY by Matt Killeen

A suspenseful, engrossing story about Sarah, a Jewish girl recruited into the secret resistance against the Nazis during WWII.

FINISHING SCHOOL SERIES by Gail Carriger

Thought finishing school was boring? Not when the subjects include death, diversion, and espionage.

A SOLDIER'S SECRET: THE INCREDIBLE TRUE STORY OF SARAH EDMUNDS, A CIVIL WAR HERO by Marissa Moss

Set during the Civil War, Sarah Edmunds disguises herself and spies for the Union Army.



9TH GRADE AND ABOVE

GOING OVER by Beth Kephart

Historical fiction set in Berlin in the 1980s with the characters living on either side of the Berlin Wall.

HARRY POTTER AND THE ART OF SPYING by Lynn Boughey and Peter Earnest

Love Harry Potter? Look at these books in a whole new way - as a spy! Coauthored by the former executive director of the International Spy Museum.

CODE NAME VERITY and ROSE UNDER FIRE by Elizabeth Wein

An intense page-turning book about spying in World War II.

THE INVISIBLE LIBRARY SERIES by Genevieve Cogman

A gripping series that follows librarian spy, Irene, on her adventures.

SPIES: THE SECRET SHOWDOWN BETWEEN AMERICA AND RUSSIA by Marc Favreau

A thrilling account of the Cold War spies and spycraft that changed the course of history.

THE ENIGMA GAME by Elizabeth Wein

Three very different young adults united to decode a secret that could turn the tide of World War II.

NONFICTION



THE REAL SPY'S GUIDE TO BECOMING A SPY by Peter Earnest & Suzanne Harper

Do you have what it takes to be a spy? Learn about the real world of spying and the skills needed to run missions from former CIA operations officer and executive director of the International Spy Museum.

JOSEPHINE: THE DAZZLING LIFE OF JOSEPHINE BAKER by Patricia Hruby Powell

A beautifully illustrated and informative book that will give readers new insight into the amazing life of Josephine Baker.

BEFORE SHE WAS HARRIET by Lesa Cline-Ransome

Great introduction to the incredible life of Harriet Tubman revealing her life as a Union spy.

ANNA STRONG: A SPY DURING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION by Sara Glenn Marsh

The thrilling true story of the female spy who helped save the American Revolution.



NONFICTION (cont.)

GEORGE WASHINGTON, SPYMASTER by Thomas B. Allen

You know George Washington was America's 1st president, but did you know he was also America's first spymaster?

HARRIET TUBMAN, SECRET AGENT: HOW DARING SLAVES AND FREE BLACKS SPIED FOR THE UNION DURING THE CIVIL WAR by Thomas B. Allen

Enter the undercover world of African-American spies—enslaved and free—risking everything in the name of freedom.

CODE GIRLS: THE TRUE STORY OF THE AMERICAN WOMEN WHO SECRETLY BROKE CODES IN WORLD WAR II - YOUNG READERS EDITION by Liza Mundy

The amazing true story of the young American women who cracked German and Japanese military codes during World War II.

THE NOTORIOUS BENEDICT ARNOLD: A TRUE STORY OF ADVENTURE, HEROISM, & TREACHERY by Steve Sheinkin

Accessible biography of Benedict Arnold and great starting point for learning more about the Revolutionary War.

HOW TO CATCH A RUSSIAN SPY: THE TRUE STORY OF AN AMERICAN CIVILIAN TURNED DOUBLE AGENT by Naveed Jamali

The fascinating story of an American amateur who helped the FBI bust a Russian spy in NYC.

CODE NAME PAULINE: MEMOIRS OF A WORLD WAR II SPECIAL AGENT by Pearl Witherington Cornioley

Discover the true tale of Pearl Witherington who became one of the most celebrated female World War II resistance fighters.

CODE BREAKER, SPY HUNTER: HOW ELIZEBETH FRIEDMAN CHANGED THE COURSE OF TWO WORLD WARS by Laura Wallmark

Decode the story of Elizebeth Friedman, the cryptologist who took down gangsters and Nazi spies.

THE SECRET LIFE OF SPIES by Michael Noble

Uncover the lives of 20 real-life spies who made it their mission to uncover the truth and collect secret information from their enemies.



NONFICTION (cont.)

CLASSIFIED: THE SECRET CAREER OF MARY GOLDA ROSS, CHEROKEE AEROSPACE ENGINEER by Traci Sorell

Mary Golda Ross designed classified airplanes and spacecraft as Lockheed Aircraft Corporation's first female engineer.

SHOW ME HISTORY: HARRIET TUBMAN: FIGHTER FOR FREEDOM by James Buckley

The life story of Harriet Tubman—escaped slave, abolitionist, and champion of women's rights—in graphic novel format.

VIRGINIA WAS A SPY by Catherine Urdahl and Gary Kelley

Inspired by the life of World War II spy Virginia Hall, this biographical tale highlights her many facets and adventurous spirit.

FBI FILES: THE UNABOMBER by Bryan Denson

The Unabomber is the story of the FBI's investigation of Ted Kaczynski, engineer of the most notorious bombing spree in U.S. history, and the agent who helped bring him to justice.

SURPRISING SPIES: UNEXPECTED HEROES OF WORLD WAR II by Karen Gray Ruelle

Discover the World War II spies who lived among the shadows and the ones who lived in the limelight—disguised in plain sight!

ATOMIC WOMEN: THE UNTOLD STORIES OF THE SCIENTISTS WHO HELPED CREATE THE NUCLEAR BOMB by Roseanne Montillo

Nonfiction narrative about the little-known female scientists who were critical to the invention of the atomic bomb during World War II.

TRUE OR FALSE: A CIA ANALYST'S GUIDE TO SPOTTING FAKE NEWS by Cindy Otis

A former CIA analyst unveils the true history of fake news and gives readers tips on how to avoid falling victim to it.