Chatterbooks Activity Pack

Thrills, adventures, spies and detectives!
Thrills, adventures, spies and detectives!
About this pack

Following up on our original spies and thrillers Chatterbooks activity pack here is another pack on the same theme, with more great reading, discussion and activity ideas.

Here are new titles and old favourites. This pack is geared more to the older children in your group; it does also have reading suggestions which younger children will especially enjoy.

In addition there are further reading lists inspired by the books in the pack, which is brought to you by The Reading Agency and their Children’s Reading Partners publisher partners.

Chatterbooks [www.readinggroups.org/chatterbooks] is a reading group programme for children aged 4 to 14 years. It is coordinated by The Reading Agency and its patron is author Dame Jacqueline Wilson. Chatterbooks groups run in libraries and schools, supporting and inspiring children’s literacy development by encouraging them to have a really good time reading and talking about books.

The Reading Agency is an independent charity working to inspire more people to read more through programmes for adults, young people and Children – including the Summer Reading Challenge, and Chatterbooks. See www.readingagency.org.uk

Children’s Reading Partners is a national partnership of children’s publishers and libraries working together to bring reading promotions and author events to as many young people as possible.

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Thrills, adventures, spies and detectives: the books
(Titles especially suitable for younger children are marked**)

**Jack and the German Spy**  Bernard Ashley  Troika Books
978-0957301344
It’s 1939 and the war’s beginning. Everyone’s afraid of spies. When Jack tumbles off the Kent train with the other wartime evacuees from London, no one in the village wants to take him in. Then Lady Ashwell patriotically sweeps him off to the Hall, where Jack learns how to hold a knife and fork and her son Clive learns how to fight dirty. When events in the night turn nasty, the boys team up to unmask a sinister enemy.

Bernard Ashley has written over thirty books for children and been shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal three times. He has written for television and adapted his novel *Little Soldier* into a play. All Bernard's work is realistic, reflecting life around him. He lives in Charlton, South London.

There was someone down there! Fright shot a sudden sheet of ice from his feet to his head. There was someone outside, wearing a trilby hat and a raincoat, going off round the corner of the house, bent over as if he was making himself small. Looking just like a spy: just like in the cartoons in the *Daily Mirror*.

Have a look at the code explained in Chapter 19, and then have a go at making up your own code in a similar way. Try cracking the message below, taking  G = 1, H = 2,  I = 3,  and so on with the rest of the alphabet:  6 9 9 5 3 8 14 2 25 23 25 6 21 12

**Bullet Catcher**  Chris Bradford  Barrington Stoke
978-1781124451
They say you can't outrun a bullet - what if you could stop one? When Troy is caught up in a terrorist attack that takes the lives of his parents, he discovers an amazing power - bullets can't harm him. He is recruited into a secret organisation and meets Kasia, a girl with her own remarkable talent. The two put their powers to use. Exhilarating action meets heart-pounding suspense.

Chris Bradford has trained in a variety of martial arts, including samurai swordsmanship, and has earned his black belt in Kyo Shin Tai-jutsu, the secret fighting art of the ninja. He is author of the *Young Samurai* and *Bodyguard* series.

She was curled up in a ball on the floor. Troy could see that he was trembling with fear. He sprinted in her direction, flew forward and landed on top of her. The terrorist’s machine gun roared and Troy felt the first of the deadly bullets hit him.

Make a list of all Troy's colleagues in S.P.E.A.R and next to each one write down what their special talent is – e.g. Troy is a bullet catcher. Think about the talents that you have – they can be just simple things that can come in useful – e.g. able to remember faces; good at untangling string – and maybe fairy-lights!
NERDS National Espionage, Rescue and Defense Society
Michael Buckley  Amulet Books (Abrams imprint)  978-0810989856

In this new middle grade series, international espionage and the awkwardness of junior high combine in a hilarious new supergroup: the N.E.R.D.S. ... Five unpopular students run a spy network from inside their elementary school. Each of the kids has his or her own unique nerdy burden to bear. But with the help of cutting-edge science, their afflictions are enhanced and become incredible abilities. Working as a team, they are the latest members of the National Espionage, Rescue and Defense Society, or N.E.R.D.S., which battles an array of James Bond-style villains; in this adventure Dr. Jigsaw wants to use a giant tractor beam to pull all the continents back together. What's a few million lives versus a completed puzzle?! 

Michael Buckley is the author of the series The Sisters Grimm. He has also written and developed shows for Nickelodeon, Disney, and the Discovery Channel. He lives in Brooklyn, USA.

‘I want you to meet our information specialist, Ms Holiday.’
‘Ms Holiday – you mean the librarian? She’s a spy?’ Jackson cried.  Agent Brand nodded.  ‘She assists with mission intelligence, cover stories, clothing and weapons, and mission preparation. At the moment she’s relaying the latest intelligence on an on-going investigation to the team…’

More special talents: Ruby’s allergies help her to detect danger and dishonesty; Heathcliff controls minds with his buckteeth; Matilda’s inhalers enable her to fly and blast enemies. Think of some things we might have which could be transformed into superpowers – maybe spectacles with X ray vision? Or a nail-biting habit becomes the ability to gnaw through rope?

Spy Master: Traitor’s Game  Jan Burchett & Sara Vogler  Hodder  978-1444010701

This is the second in this exciting new spy series set in Tudor England, amid the intrigue and danger of Henry VIII’s royal court, from the authors of books in the bestselling Beast Quest series. Jack Briars, apprentice to King Henry VIII’s spy master Thomas Cromwell, is enjoying his life of adventure. But the King’s enemies are becoming ever more resourceful. The mystery of a few missing items leads to something much more sinister – and Jack faces a deadly plot, where he and resourceful seamstress, Cat Thimblebee, must crack the code and save the King.

Jan Burchett and Sara Vogler have together produced over 170 books. These are wide-ranging and include stories about ghosts playing football, Tudor detectives, dinosaurs, pets from space and time-travelling pirates. Jan lives in Essex and Sara lives in London.

As far as everyone else was concerned, I was simply one of Thomas Cromwell’s scribes. But Master Cromwell, the King’s most trusted minister, ran a secret network of spies – and he’d recruited me to join their number. He refused to call us spies but that’s what we were. We worked to keep King and country safe. 

Imagine you are Jack, a young spy in Tudor times at the court of King Henry VIII, with enemies of the state around every corner. Find out more about Thomas Cromwell, master spy!
**The Spy Who Loved School Dinners**  Pamela Butchart & Thomas Flintham  Nosy Crow  978-0857632579

Izzy is really pleased to have been put in charge of the new girl at school. Matilde is French, and Izzy and her friends can’t wait to show her their den and its moth (yes!), and to help her avoid school dinners (also known as poison). But Matilde LOVES school dinners and even has seconds! That’s when they know - Matilde is a spy and she has come to find out their secrets. They must stop her before it’s TOO LATE!!!

Pamela Butchart has worked as a fishwife, teaching basketball in America, phlebotomist, and Artist Liaison for a (really bad) Abba tribute band. Now, she teaches philosophy, writes children’s books and lives in Dundee.

Grandad knows LOADS about spies and secret missions, because he was very high up in The War, and he was called an Intelligent Officer. Grandad says that I have to keep everything he tells me ‘TOP SECRET’ because he thinks Mr Thomson who sits across from him in the TV room is a spy.

The children in this story have a school trip to the Discovery – the ship in which explorer Captain Scott and his team went to Antarctica on their expedition to the South Pole. Find out more about this expedition and what happened to Scott – and about his rival Amundsen. And see if they really did eat penguin…

**Spooks and Scooters**  Elen Caldecott  Bloomsbury  978-1408852736

Meet Piotr, Minnie, Andrew, Flora and Sylvie - true friends and even better mystery-solvers! Flora and Sylvie are going on the holiday of a lifetime with their dad. But - WHAT? - Dad cancels the trip only hours before the flight because - OH MY GOODNESS - someone has stolen precious blueprints of Dad’s latest invention: an amazing new scooter. Time to call on the only five people who can possibly solve the crime! The third in the *Marsh Road Mysteries* series.

Elen Caldecott graduated with an MA in Writing for Young People from Bath Spa University. Before becoming a writer, she was an archaeologist, a nurse, a theatre usher and a museum security guard. Her books include *How Kirsty Jenkins Stole the Elephant*, which was shortlisted for the Waterstones Children’s Book Prize. She lives in Bristol.

‘…Breeze are bringing in a private investigator to find out who leaked the plans,’ Flora said… ‘That’s industrial espionage!’ Piotr said in wonder. ‘Oh! Spying! Who’s the spook?’ Andrew asked. ‘Spook?’ Minnie said. Andrew rolled his eyes… ‘Spooks are spies, secret agents; it’s also a word for ghosts, of course, but I don’t think that’s relevant here.’

Elen Caldecott is one of our Chatterbooks champions! Have a go at the Sleuthing Skills activity which she devised for Chatterbooks groups – it’s on page 13 of this pack. And enjoy these activities on the *Marsh Road Mysteries* website.
**The Mystery of the Man with the Black Beard**

Gillian Cross  Barrington Stoke  978-1781123591

Annie's dad is a private investigator. She's used to mysterious things going on, but when a string of visitors come to her dad's office, it results in the most mysterious event of all - her dad has disappeared! Annie knows something is wrong and she enlists the help of her friends Matt and Ruth to follow a trail of very sticky clues... This book is particularly suitable for struggling, reluctant and dyslexic readers aged 7+

Gillian Cross has been writing children's books for over thirty years and has won the Carnegie Medal for *Wolf* and the Smarties Prize and the Whitbread Children's Novel Award for *The Great Elephant Chase*. She lives in Dorset.

Annie watched in horror as Jed reached for a long handle on the floor and pulled it down. ‘Goodbye forever!’ he yelled. ‘I win and you lose, Mr Crime Buster!’

There was a loud creaking sound and Annie saw a trap door open under her dad's chair.

Talk about how footsteps and fingerprints can give clues at the scene of a crime.

**Rose Campion and the Stolen Secret**

Lyn Gardner  Nosy Crow  978-0857634863

Murder, mystery and musical thrills in the shadowy streets of Victorian London in this new series. This is historical fiction with a popular twist: murders and mysteries set in the glitzy world of the Victorian music hall, with added detective drama! Rose was left by her mother at the door of Campion's Palace of Variety and Wonders as a baby. It is her home, and she loves it, but she never stops wondering who she really is. When murder threatens to destroy the music hall, Rose will need all her performance skills to destroy the music hall.

Lyn Gardner lives in London, near Richmond Park. A theatre critic for The Guardian, she has also written several children's books, including the *Olivia* series and *Into the Woods* and *Out of the Woods*.

Her unease at the empty room was growing, not dissipating. She eyed the room for clues, trying to study it in the way the police might look at the scene of a crime. She noticed one of the bricks at the bottom of the fireplace was wonky and loose. She bent down and tried to pull at it.

There are lots of interesting characters in this story and several turn out to be linked to each other in some way. Talk about what you know about each of the characters below – make a list, with notes about each of them. Then have a go at making a chart or a diagram which shows who is connected to who, and why.

Rose; Thomas; Aurora; Lizzie Gawkin; Ned Dorset; Freddie Dorset; Ed Ford (Edgar Easingford); Lord Easingford; Sarah.
Knightley & Son: Three of a Kind  Rohan Gavin  Bloomsbury
978-1408860083
Sherlock meets Ocean’s Eleven in this wickedly funny, action-packed crime caper. Darkus Knightley is an extraordinary solver of crimes, with immense powers of deduction, and regularly found bedecked in tweed, Darkus is anything but the average 13-year-old. But he is the person to call when strange goings-on are afoot! When his father’s loyal housekeeper, Bogna, goes missing, Darkus must return to the family fold and follow the clues to America and the bright lights of Las Vegas. Alongside his father, Alan, and stepsister, Tilly, Darkus must once again face the deadly criminal organisation, the Combination – Knightley and Son will need an ace or two up their sleeves in order to win this game.

Rohan Gavin is an author and screenwriter based in London. He has also written Knightley & Son: K-9 and Knightley & Son: Three of a Kind.

As he was led through the party, he felt his catastrophiser ticking and humming in time to the music. The catastrophiser was Darkus’s friend and his enemy. It allowed him to continually digest potential clues taken from his immediate surroundings, and it always suggested the worst-case scenario.

Talk about this story – what was your favourite part? And what do you think of Darkus? Together collect a list of his powers and characteristics. Which do you think is most useful?

If You Were Me  Sam Hepburn  Chicken House
978-1909489806
Not long after Aliya’s family escapes Afghanistan for Britain, her brother is accused of a bomb attack. Aliya is sure of his innocence, but when plumber’s son Dan finds a gun in their bathroom, what’s she to think? Dan has his own reasons for staying silent: he’s worried the gun might have something to do with his dad. Thrown together by chance, Aliya and Dan set out to uncover a tangled and twisted truth.

Sam Hepburn was producer of factual programmes at the BBC for over 25 years and was the Commissioner for the launch of BBC 4. She lives in London.

My heart stopped beating. The lamplight seemed to flicker and dim as a sheet of paper slid on to the mat. I pulled Mina away and crept over to pick it up. Sick inside, I stared down at the crossed swords of the Taliban stamped at the top. My hand was shaking so much I could hardly read the scratchy blue scrawl that began ‘Asalaamu Aleikum’ – ‘Peace be upon you’ – but there was no peace in the message.

‘As the plot thickens with each new development, the reader is drawn further into Aliya and Dan’s adventures and the author really makes you feel like you are right there with the characters and feel each emotion as they do.’

This is a review of this book by a young reader. Do you agree, or have other feelings about the book? What do you think of the way that the story ends?
Investigations into the “accidental” deaths of two of the world’s most powerful men have revealed just one link: both had a son attending Point Blanc Academy, a school for rebellious rich kids run by the sinister Dr Grief, set high in the French Alps. Armed with a new collection of gadgets, Alex must infiltrate the academy as a pupil and find out what is really happening there.

Anthony Horowitz is the author of the number one bestselling Alex Rider books and The Power of Five series. He has also written Sherlock Holmes novels The House of Silk and Moriarty and was chosen by the Ian Fleming estate to write the new James Bond novel, Trigger Mortis. He has been awarded an OBE for Services to Literature, and he has also written TV series, including Midsomer Murders, and Foyle’s War. Kanako and Yuzuru, two sisters from Japan, collaborate to produce manga-style art for comics and graphic novels. Yuzuru is an illustrator and lives in Tokyo; Kanako is a graphic designer and lives in London.

Talk about graphic novels, and novels with straight text – which do you prefer, or do you like both, for different reasons?

**Hero on a Bicycle**    Shirley Hughes    Walker
978-140636617

This is a thrilling World War II novel for children aged 10 and up. It is 1944 and Florence, Italy, is occupied by Nazi German forces. The Italian resistance movement has not given up hope - nor have Paolo and his sister, Constanza. Both are desperate to fight the occupation, but what can they do against a whole army with only a bicycle to help them? In extraordinary circumstances, people are capable of extraordinary things.

Shirley Hughes has illustrated many writers’ work, including Noel Streatfeild, Alison Uttley, Margaret Mahy, and Dorothy Edwards’s My Naughty Little Sister series. Her own books include Dogger and the Alfie series. In 2007 Dogger was voted the public’s favourite Greenaway Medal winner of all time. Shirley received an OBE in 1999 for services to Children’s Literature. She lives in London.

The way home was the worst journey Paolo had ever made. He took the back streets out of the city, dreading at every turn that they would run into another German patrol. Joe was tall and broad, and he seemed a dead-weight to Paolo, who was finding it almost impossible to support him, even along the flat. As they began their ascent up the road towards home Paolo had to dismount and push his bicycle, with Joe slumped upon it.

When you’ve read and talked about this book, have a look at some more inspiring novels about World War II, such as Ian Serraillier’s The Silver Sword, Judith Kerr’s When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit, and I Am David by Ann Holm.
Arsene Lupin vs Sherlock Holmes  Maurice LeBlanc
Alma Classics  978-1847495617
This volume contains two adventures which pit the gentleman thief Arsene Lupin against Sherlock Holmes, the world’s most famous detective (here in the persona of ‘Herlock Sholmes’!).
In The Blonde Lady, Holmes must discover the identity of a mysterious female thief who is linked to Lupin, while in The Jewish Lamp he finds out that the theft of a lamp containing a precious jewel conceals an astonishing secret. While their tone is at times ironic and firmly tongue-in-cheek, the two stories have lots of dialogue, bear all the hallmarks of classic detective fiction, and will put a smile on the lips and set the pulses racing of detective fiction fans.
Maurice Leblanc (1864 – 1941) was a French novelist and short-story writer who is best known for these stories of the gentleman thief Arsene Lupin.

Holmes’s pipe, a short briar with a silver ferrule, went out. He emptied the ashes, and filled it again, lit it, gathered up on his knees the tails of his dressing gown and emitted from his pipe long puffs, which he endeavoured to launch at the ceiling in small rings of smoke.

At the end of this book is some extra material for young readers, with background information, a detailed look at all the characters, information about other well-known crime writers such as Agatha Christie and Wilkie Collins, and a quiz where you can test yourself on how well you’ve picked up on all the facts in the story!

Moone Boy: the Fish Detective  Chris O’Dowd & Nick V. Murphy  Macmillan  978-1447270973
It’s going to be a budget Christmas this year. So Martin tries to get a job. Padraic puts in a word for him with his Auntie Bridget, who runs the local butcher’s shop. But her shop is struggling in competition with the fish shop across the road which undercuts her. How does the owner, Francie Feeley, do it? Martin decides to go undercover and find out the truth – as a fish detective. He finds that Francie is illegally employing a gang of Brazilian fish-gutters. They’re a lot of fun and one of them, Fabio, becomes Martin’s good friend. But then Martin is exposed as a spy…

Chris O’Dowd is an actor, writer and director. He starred in the TV series The IT Crowd, and writes, directs and stars in Moone Boy, the Sky TV series, collaboratiing with his friend Nick Vincent Murphy. He is currently based in LA.

‘A fish...detective?’ asked a puzzled Bridget Cross. Martin nodded enthusiastically. ‘I also like to think of myself as a Fish-Mole. Or a Private Infishigator.’
‘So you’d be my...spy? My eyes and ears?’ ‘Exactamundo, Mrs C!’ Martin beamed. ‘And maybe her mouth and nose too,’ I added, ‘if we find any edible or smellable clues.’

Funny but with some serious dimensions to talk about, both in the ‘post-it’ info notes on many pages, and in the plot line around the Brazilian fish-gutters – immigrants brought over illegally by the factory owner, when a fish disease meant that there was no work back home in Brazil.
3-year-old Oskari is sent into the cold wilderness on an ancient test of manhood. He must survive armed only with a bow and arrow. But instead, he stumbles upon an escape pod from a burning airliner: Air Force One. Terrorists have shot down the President of the United States. The boy hunter and the world's most powerful man are suddenly the hunted, in a race against a deadly enemy.

Dan Smith has lived in many places that inspire his writing - including Sierra Leone, Sumatra, northern and central Brazil. He now lives in Newcastle and writes for both children and adults.

All I wanted to do now was get away from there. I wanted to leave them all behind. I wasn’t afraid of going alone into the forest any more. I was desperate to go. When I turned the key in the ignition, though, nothing happened. I swallowed hard and tried again... The engine roared into life and I throttled it hard. I took one last look at Dad, then put the ATV into gear and drove away from the Place of Skulls into the wilderness of Mount Akka. My Trial had begun.

Talk together about how you have found this book – what you remember most from the story; did it turn out how you expected? Talk about the custom in many communities of young people undergoing a trial or initiation as a part of growing up. Other stories about this are Ghost Hawk by Susan Cooper and Hagurosan by Darren Shan.

Non-fiction

Spies (Usborne True Stories) Paul Dowswell & Fergus Fleming Usborne 978-0746088227

Spies is a collection of chilling tales from the world of espionage - from the glittering domain of Mata Hari in turn of the century Paris, to the clinical Cold War professionals of Washington and Moscow.

Paul Dowswell is a British writer of non-fiction and fiction, writing mainly for children and young adults. He has written over 60 books, mostly with history as the subject, but also about geography, natural history, and science.

Spying is a lonely game, and one which requires immense courage and patience. Many a spy has spent long, sleepless nights, wondering when his cover may be blown, and what terrible fate lies in store for him if he is betrayed, or gives himself away. A spy who is sent to uncover the secrets of an enemy country has troubles enough. But a spy who renounces his own country and seeks to work for an alien power faces almost certain torture and death if he is discovered.

(From the introduction to the story The salesman and the superspy, about Oleg Penkovsky and Greville Wynne).
There is an endless fascination with spies and the shadowy world they inhabit, but naturally their activities are shrouded in secrecy. This book reveals some of high-tech methods used by spies working today, as well as the more traditional spy tradecraft. It contains real life spy stories illustrated with picture strip, fascinating photographs, and is internet-linked to a wealth of extra resources online. (Go to www.usborne.com/quicklinks and enter the keyword ‘spying’.)

This book is part of the Beginners Plus series which is designed to inspire boys to read.

Take a look inside the covert world of espionage - its history, the hi-tech spy gadgets and aspects of spycraft from surveillance to assassination. DK’s *Ultimate Spy* is filled with stunning, specially commissioned photographs that show details of equipment including spycams, bugs, weapons and drone aircraft. From the earliest intrigues at royal courts through the covert operations of the CIA and KGB during the Cold War to the revelations from Wikileaks and Edward Snowden, delve into the secret world of espionage.

H. Keith Melton is an internationally recognized authority on espionage tradecraft and equipment. He lectures as the Tradecraft Historian at the Interagency Training Center outside Washington, DC, and is also an adviser on historical espionage equipment to US intelligence agencies.

**Adventures, thrills, spies and detectives**

**Ideas for discussion and activities**

Make sure you also look at our original *Spies and Thrillers* pack.

A few of its ideas are reprised here but there are many more, on all of the following themes:

- Disguise
- Codes & Secret Messages
- Truth or Lie?
- Shadowing
- Live Drops and Dead Drops
- Missions impossible?
- Goodies and Baddies
- Superpowers
Things to talk about

What is a spy?! We all think first of secret agents, James Bond, and daring and glamorous adventures. Talk about what it can really involve – for example:

- close and secret observation of someone
- gathering information
- governments and organisations employing people to find out the secrets of rivals and other governments

Why might people become spies? For money? To help their country? Maybe forced into it by blackmail?

Your favourite adventure stories? Your favourite adventurer?
Make a list of your group’s favourite adventure stories – divide it into columns: spy stories, thrillers, detective stories, adventures. Some books may fit in more than one column! Vote for your favourite in each column.
And who are your group’s favourite storybook heroes and heroines?

Activity ideas

Memory Game
A detective or a secret agent really needs a good memory – see what yours is like!

Get together 10 to 15 objects on a tray – eg. spoon, pencil, badge etc
Give your group 1 minute to look at them and try to fix them in their memory.
Cover the objects.
Each person then writes down in a list as many objects as they can remember.
The winner is the one who remembers most objects.

Or:
Cover the objects, remove one object
Then ask which object has been taken away.
Repeat, removing a different object each time.
The winner is the one with the most correct answers.
**Observation**

A good detective or spy – or any adventurer - also needs to be extremely observant of everything and everyone around you, so that you gather all the information you need, as well as making sure that you yourself are not caught out!

Talk together about how being a good observer is also a valuable skill in everyday life – for example in getting to understand more about people and situations; in collecting accurate information; or maybe for writing that best-selling novel!

To develop observation skills your group could keep a journal, individually or contributing to a joint notebook. Encourage them to make good, clear notes about what they see and hear. You could end up with a fascinating picture of your town or school – and it will also be interesting to see how people may see things differently, or place importance on different things.

**Sleuthing skills activity:**
from author and Chatterbooks champion, Elen Caldecott

**Test your powers of deduction!**

- **a. Returning stolen property.**

There has been a flood at the police station! Records have been damaged and now the police need to use soggy, stained information to help reunite owners with their stolen property. Can you help the police?

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<th>Skateboard</th>
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Annie has lost something with wheels.
Mo has lost something with two syllables in its name.
Nida has lost something with four letters in its name.
Calum has lost something which shares his first initial.
b. Caught On Camera!

A penthouse flat has been burgled, jewels and cash are missing. There are five suspects. The police check the area for cameras, and find CCTV images from inside the lift. They cannot see the burglar’s face, but they can see some important clues – the burglar is the tallest and thinnest of their suspects – but which one is it?

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<td>Eddie</td>
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Dante and Clive are taller than Bennie and Eddie. Andrew and Dante are thinner than Clive and Eddie. Andrew is short.

c. The Safe-Crackers

Here are a set of statements. From the statements, can you work out who committed the crime?

On Thursday night, a bank vault was raided and the safe was opened. The police suspect four known safe-crackers, so they take all of them to the police station for questioning. The police know that only one of the safe-crackers will be lying (the guilty party!). So, from the statements they make to the police, can you work out which criminal broke open the safe on Thursday?

Dastardly Dave says Cracking Kate did it.
Cracking Kate says Dave is a liar.
One-Eyed Juan says that he knows Dave did it.
Confused Kelly says that she is completely innocent.

You’ll find the answers at the end of this pack.
**Thrills, adventures, spies and detectives:** Quiz

For each question choose a, b or c – then check and talk about the answers together. N.B. Sometimes there is more than one answer!

1. A spook is
   a. A ghost
   b. A spy
   c. A combination of a spoon and a fork

2. *Arthur Conan Doyle* wrote famous detective stories about
   a. Hercule Poirot
   b. Herlock Sholmes
   c. Sherlock Holmes

3. In the spying world what is a mole?
   a. An animal used for carrying messages underground
   b. A spot hiding a microdot message
   c. Someone infiltrating an enemy organisation

4. What does **CCTV** stand for?
   a. Crime Concealment Television
   b. Closed Circuit Television
   c. Comic Cuts TV

5. **Counter-intelligence** is
   a. Feeding false information to enemy spies
   b. A very clever shop-keeper
   c. Being good at maths

6. In the spying world a bug is
   a. A germ
   b. A mechanical insect
   c. A miniature hidden microphone

7. A dead letter drop is
   a. A blocked-up post box
   b. A secret location where spies can leave messages for each other
   c. A place where undelivered letters are put

8. In the spying world a drone is
   a. A code language
   b. A pilotless aircraft operated by remote control
   c. An unobservant secret agent

Answers at the end of the pack
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Answers to Elen Caldecott’s ‘Sleuthing skills’ activity

1. Annie – bike; Mo – skateboard; Nida – ring; Calum – camera.
2. Dante did it, he’s the only one who can be the tallest and thinnest.

Dave did it. If he were telling the truth when he said Kate did it, then that would make Kate and Juan a liar, which isn’t possible as there’s only one liar

Quiz answers
1 a & b
2 c
3 c
4 b
5 a
6 c
7 b
8 b