**The Doublecross:**

**(and other skills I learned as a superspy)**

by Jackson Pearce

**Annotation**

Everyone in twelve-year-old Hale's family is a spy going way back. They've all worked for the Sub Rosa Society, an elite organization that's so top secret that new agents aren't recruited; they're born. His parents may be the ultimate spy team at SRS, but Hale isn't your typical stealthy spy--he is, as his mother puts it, "big-boned," and as some of his classmates put it, "fat." Still, he's convinced he will someday be a great field agent. After all, it's his legacy.

**Book Talk**

Ask the students what they want to be when they grow up and discuss if their career choices are based on their parents’ jobs. Discuss what students think spies look like and how they act to get the conversation going to introduce this book.

**Book Trailer**

* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UxxvkifdC_c>

**Author on the Internet**

* Website: [www.jacksonpearce.com](http://www.jacksonpearce.com)
* Twitter: @JacksonPearce
* Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Jackson-Pearce-324549258692/>
* Instagram: @JacksonPearce

**Items to use in a library display**

* Magnifying glass
* binoculars
* spy kit goodies
* books about spies or investigating

**Book Club Discussion Questions/Topics**

* What information did Hale overhear that triggered him to think that something had happened to his parents?
* Would you trust the SRS agency?
* How did you feel about Ms. Elma when she had to take care of the children after their parents went missing? Did you trust her?
* Describe Dr. Fishburn and his requirements. Were they were fair or not fair?
* Share one word that describes the feeling of this book.

**First Line of the Book**

“I should make one thing clear, right off the bat: It. Wasn’t. Cheating.”

**Non-Fiction Companion Title(s)**

* Spy (DK Eyewitness Books) by Richard Platt
* [Fingerprint wizards : the secrets of forensic science](https://oneclay.follettdestiny.com/cataloging/servlet/presenttitledetailform.do?siteTypeID=-2&siteID=&includeLibrary=true&includeMedia=false&mediaSiteID=0&bibID=402807&walkerID=1520719898973)*by Ross Piper*

**What to Read Next**

* NERDS series by Micheal Buckley
* I.Q. series by Roland Smith

**Other Books by this Author**

* The Other Side (and Other Skills I Learned as a SuperSpy) sequel 2016
* Ellie, Engineer (Jan. 2018)
* Pip Bartlett’s Guide to Magical Creatures (2015) series
* Sisters Red (Fairytale Retelling) 2011

**Additional Resources**

* Music: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/63683782209580508/> (spy music)
* Spy Games: <http://www.scholastic.com/ispy/games/index.htm>
* Art/craft activity: <https://www.kcedventures.com/blog/fingerprint-science-for-kids>

 (fingerprint activity)

 <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/101471797825977304/>

 (juice box walkie talkies)

* Book Study: <https://www.state.lib.la.us/files/LYRC/DoubleCross_Guide.pdf>
* Lesson ideas: make a list or word web of schema we have about spies, use book cover for students to write a prediction summary of what they think the book will be about before reading or sharing any information

**Name that Book**

“I always saw being a spy mostly as dangling off buildings and karate chopping bad guys and stealing important hard drives--dangerous, sure, but also exciting and full of adrenaline and heroics.” p. 39

“My vending machine breakfast has been ages ago, but no way was I taking food from the agency offered me--it almost definitely had a sleeper drug in it.” p. 79

“...I stood on my toes to pop off the cover on the overhead light, and held the tube against the lightbulb. It burned the tips of my fingers before the tape finally began to smoke.” p. 198

“Mission: Get sent on Friday’s mission Step 1: Wait for chili day.” p. 127

“She used the tried-and-true method of younger siblings everywhere: she’d begged and begged until I would rather have removed my own eyeballs than listen to her beg anymore.” p. 165