



## The Spy

### Sample lesson plan

Pearl Dubois is a Southern belle, born to a prominent and wealthy family. During the Second World War, she wants to help the Allies. She lands a job in Paris working for the Office of Strategic Services, the first spy agency in the US. Pearl convinces her boss to send her on a secret mission. She will bring photos of German spies to General George Patton. On the way to the general's camp, Nazi soldiers capture Pearl and her companions. She begins to plot her escape. Based on the real-life experiences of Gertrude Sanford Legendre, the first woman captured as a spy during WWII, Pearl's adventures are both riveting and inspiring.

You will encounter some **vocabulary** that you can discuss ahead of time:

alignment	disguise	lieutenant
ancient	disseminate	microfiche
announcement	encounters	monumental
archaeological	equinoxes	mysterious
artifacts	expedition	navigational
astronomical	exponentially	negotiate
authorities	facilitated	platform
breakthroughs	freight	propelled
belongings	frontier	pyramids
civilization	governesses	screeched
circumnavigate	headquarters	serum
civilian	hieroglyphs	simultaneously
companions	identity	sophisticated
conductor	indigenous	solstices
conscripted	infrastructure	strategic
crumpled	innovative	techniques
deciphered	interrogate	traversed
debriefed	interpreter	unprecedented
devastated	irrigation	valuable

## **Read out loud!**

The teacher can model by reading the first paragraph of a chapter. Then, students can read one at a time or in groups, a chapter at a time. This can take several classes or sessions.

## **Here are a few videos to spark conversation:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sPH5cOHD4Z0>

The History channel's YouTube video "Virginia Hall: The Most Feared Allied Spy of WWII" tells the story of Virginia Hall, an American woman who worked as a spy for the Allies during World War II. Despite being an amputee and facing discrimination, she helped lead the French Resistance and gather intelligence for the Allies. The video can be used to facilitate discussions about women's roles in the war effort and overcoming adversity.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6q9ArquxOR8>

The "Women in WWII" video, posted by the Pearl Harbor National Memorial, explores the various roles that women played in World War II, from factory workers to nurses and military personnel. It highlights the contributions and sacrifices of women during the war, as well as the challenges they faced. It can be used to facilitate discussions about gender roles, history, and social issues.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B3461S5YtKM>

This video explores the story of iconic Rosie the Riveters. The catchy, musical video delves in the women's labor movement during WWII. It can be used to talk about the power of advertising, women's history, gender roles, and the impact of women on employment during this period. Consider showing the Rosie the Riveter image and having a discussion before beginning the video.

## **Discussion questions:**

1. How did Pearl get away from the castle where she was trapped? What problems did she have during her escape?

2. Talk about Pearl's trip to the Swiss border. How did she evade the people chasing her?
3. What did the people Pearl met while escaping do? Did they help or hurt her?
4. How did being a spy help Pearl when she was escaping?
5. When Pearl got to the Swiss border, what did she tell the guard about who she was? Why was this important for her to be safe?
6. In the hospital, Pearl talked to Mr. Donovan about her time as a prisoner. Why was the list of prisoners important?
7. At the end of the story, Pearl has to go back to America because people know she was a spy. How do you think she feels about this?
8. The story is based on a real person named Gertrude Sanford Legendre. How does knowing this change how you think about the story? What things did Gertrude and Pearl have in common that helped them be good spies during the war?

**Comprehension Multiple Choice questions:**

1. Where did Pearl work during the war?
  - a. In a school
  - b. In a hospital
  - c. In the Office of Strategic Services
  - d. In a factory
2. What did Pearl find when she woke up after being shot?
  - a. She was in a prison cell.
  - b. She was in a clean, bright room.
  - c. She was still outside near the border.
  - d. She was in a dark basement.
3. What did Pearl use to tie around her leg wound?
  - a. A rope
  - b. A bandage
  - c. The bottom of her blouse
  - d. A piece of cloth from a curtain

4. What was Pearl's mission before she was captured?
  - a. To find a hidden treasure
  - b. To deliver secret documents
  - c. To rescue prisoners
  - d. To gather information about the enemy
  
5. What happened to the man who helped Pearl escape?
  - a. He was arrested by the enemy
  - b. He was captured by the Americans
  - c. He stayed in his country
  - d. He went with Pearl to America

### **Geography extension:**

**Title:** Exploring the Countries in the Story

**Objective:** Students will learn about the countries and their locations mentioned in the book.

**Materials:** Map or globe, paper, and pencils

#### **Instructions:**

1. Begin the lesson by asking students to identify the countries mentioned in the book (e.g., United States, Germany, Switzerland, Luxembourg).
2. Show students a map or a globe and ask them to locate these countries. Discuss their relative locations to each other and the continents they are a part of.
3. Divide students into groups of 2-3 and assign each group one of the countries from the book.
4. Ask each group to research basic information about their assigned country, such as the capital city, official language, and a few interesting facts.
5. Have each group present their findings to the class. Encourage students to practice their speaking skills during the presentation.
6. After all the presentations, discuss how understanding the geography of the countries in the book can help them better understand the story and its context.

### **Math extension:**

**Title:** Time Zones and Travel

**Objective:** Students will learn about time zones and practice basic math skills by calculating time differences between countries mentioned in the book.

**Materials:** Map or globe with time zones, paper, pencils, and a list of time zones for countries in the book (United States, Germany, Switzerland, Luxembourg)

**Instructions:**

1. Begin the lesson by explaining the concept of time zones and how they impact the time differences between countries. Show students a map or a globe with time zones.
2. Ask students to identify the countries mentioned in the book (e.g., United States, Germany, Switzerland, Luxembourg) and their time zones.
3. Divide students into groups of 2-3 and give each group a list of time zones for the countries in the book.
4. Assign each group a hypothetical travel scenario, such as flying from the United States to Germany or from Switzerland to Luxembourg.
5. Have each group calculate the time difference between the two countries in their scenario and determine the local time at the destination upon arrival. For example, if a flight leaves the United States at 3:00 PM and arrives in Germany after 8 hours, what would be the local time in Germany upon arrival, considering the time difference?
6. Discuss how understanding time zones and calculating time differences can be useful when traveling internationally or calling friends and family outside the country and how it relates to the story in the book.

\*To extend this activity further, have students calculate the cost and travel times by train for intracontinental travel. Ask students which is faster, cheaper, etc.

**What to read next:**

***Continuing reading historical fiction with us!***

- [Key City on the River](#) (same reading level)
- [A Full Circle](#) (one full reading level higher)

***Continue your reading about travel with us!***

- [The Night Telephone](#) (slightly lower reading level)
- [Airport](#) (slightly higher reading level)