

SAMPLE PAGES FOR 'SPY SCHOOL' by Barbara Hockley & Greg Swinford
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The ROOKIES have arrived & the musical number 'SPIES' has just finished.

After the final group pose the AGENTS congratulate each other noisily.
EASTER BUNNY creates a louder noise (bell, trumpet - anything) everyone stops and pays attention to FATHER CHRISTMAS and EASTER BUNNY who are standing on a platform in the middle. EASTER BUNNY has a clipboard.

F.CHRISTMAS: Welcome everyone to this fine training establishment for spies.

E.BUNNY: Code Name 'Spy School'.

F.CHRISTMAS: As you know I am in charge here.

E.BUNNY: Number One. Code Name 'Father Christmas'.

F.CHRISTMAS: Thank you Number Two.

E.BUNNY: Code Name 'Easter Bunny'.

F.CHRISTMAS: Today we welcome our three new Rookies to day one of training.

Everyone cheers. The ROOKIES look rather embarrassed and nervous.

F.CHRISTMAS: (*Addressing audience*) However, this is a secret organisation. So when you lot leave you will remember nothing. Do I make myself clear?

The audience respond (probably not very loudly).
Everyone on stage stands with hands on hips and looks out at the audience.

ALL: Do we make ourselves clear?

Hopefully, the audience respond enthusiastically and loudly!
Meanwhile SNAX enters and stands by FATHER CHRISTMAS.

F.CHRISTMAS: That's better! (*SNAX whispers something to him*) Take over please Easter Bunny. I believe the kettle has boiled.

FATHER CHRISTMAS and SNAX exit.

BOGBEAN: Is that code for 'the secret plan is ready to be put into operation'?

E.BUNNY: No, it's code for the kettle has boiled and it's time for a cuppa!

MILKWEED: (*To BOGBEAN*) Don't show us up, not everything is code.

FOXGLOVE: (*Loudly*) We would just like to say that we're happy to be here and we're ready for our first mission, Easter Bunny.

The AGENTS giggle/snigger at this.

MILKWEED: No, no, we're not! I mean, we are happy to be here ... obviously.

BOGBEAN: But we're not really spy material ... errr ... yet.

MILKWEED: No, not yet. In fact ...

BOGBEAN: We're not really ready to be here ... really ... not ready.

MILKWEED: But soon ... maybe.

FOXGLOVE: But we are ready! We are destined to be the best spies ever! We'll prove it ... any mission you like.

MILKWEED / BOGBEAN: WHAT?

All the AGENTS stare at them.

MILKWEED: He doesn't mean that .. don't listen.

BOGBEAN: He's overexcited.

FOXGLOVE: No I'm not.

MILKWEED / BOGBEAN: Yes you are!

E.BUNNY: *(Enjoying teasing the Rookies)* A mission ... so soon? Well, how very keen of you. I wonder if we have any going spare at the moment. Ummmmm. Let me see. *(Consults notes on clipboard.)* Agent Gizmo, start the introductions while I sort out our 'best spies ever' with a dangerous mission worthy of their talents.

All the Spies laugh at the embarrassed Rookies. FOXGLOVE is not sure why they are laughing, MILKWEED and BOGBEAN glare at FOXGLOVE.

Then the Agents introduce themselves to the Rookies. This is an opportunity for each Agent to demonstrate their skill with actions or items appropriate to their character.

As each group carries out introductions they approach the Rookies and work around them. The effect should be fast, funny and very confusing for the poor Rookies.

A.GIZMO: Yes Easter Bunny. *(To ROOKIES)* Agent Gizmo. Department of Cool Gadgets. *(Produces a seriously cool and strange looking gadget.)* Observe the effects of my latest invention. I call it the jelly-leg-abulator.

AGENT GIZMO points the jelly-leg-abulator at BOGBEAN'S legs and 'fires' – it has the result of turning BOGBEAN'S legs to jelly and causing him/her to wobble and stagger around.

A.GUBBINS: Agent Gubbins. Radar, radio and small devices that fit in the heel of your shoe, down your socks and in your ear. This one I call the Cool-mover-tron.

AGENT GUBBINS produces something invisible and pops it in FOXGLOVE'S ear who immediately starts to demonstrate cool dance moves.

A.GIMMICK: Agent Gimmick. Fast stuff. Rockets. Things that go 'bang' *(produces a strange looking gadget and presses a button)* .

A loud bang makes the ROOKIES jump in fright, FOXGLOVE loses the 'thing' in his ear and comes to a stop, MILKWEED holds BOGBEAN up.

ROOKIES: Wow!

A.PRAIRIE DOG: Agent Prairie Dog, Department of Cool Posing. Like this ... *(demonstrates with a prairie dog pose that the ROOKIES can't take their eyes off)*. Useful for times when you want to blend in and go unnoticed.

A.PENGUIN: Agent Penguin. Demonstrating the Super cool spy walk. (*Walks towards them penguin style.*) Not for beginners though. I would suggest you start with ducks.

A.PEACOCK: Agent Peacock. Get noticed! (*Struts towards the Rookies in flamboyant fashion.*) This is the way you enter casinos and posh hotels – but only if you have a reservation – otherwise it requires advanced sneaking techniques.

When AGENTS PRAIRIE DOG, PENGUIN and PEACOCK are together they immediately strike a 'spy pose' or even a quick succession of 'spy poses'.

ROOKIES: Cool!

During this the Agents from the Department of Sneaking-like-a-Sheep' sneak up behind them. As they introduce themselves they jump out and surprise the Rookies. If you have any places to hide they can leap out from there or use other Agents to hide behind. They always move as their name might suggest and stand as if they are hiding behind a lamp post.

A.PROWLS-LIKE-A-PIGEON: Agent Prowls-like-a-Pigeon, Department of Sneaking-like-a-Sheep. You'll never see us. We embody stealth and sneakiness.

A.CREEPS-LIKE-A-CRAB: Agent Creeps-like-a-Crab. Now you see me. (*Hides somewhere*). Now you don't.

A.LURKS-LIKE-A-LIZARD: Agent Lurks-like-a-Lizard. (*Mysteriously*) You'll find me in the lounge. I'll be watching you ...

AGENTS PROWL-LIKE-A-PIGEON, CREEPS-LIKE-A-CRAB and LURKS-LIKE-A-LIZARD go back to their places in a way their names might suggest (not at all sneaky in fact). The ROOKIES are suitably bewildered.

BOGBEAN: But sheep don't sneak.

A.PROWLS-LIKE-A-PIGEON: Have you ever turned around suddenly and noticed a sheep standing behind you?

BOGBEAN: Errr no.

A.PROWLS-LIKE-A-PIGEON: Exactly!

ROOKIES: (*Bewildered*) Right ...

As they watch the next group of AGENTS arrange themselves around a large box/basket containing disguises. They change their appearance a few times during the following.

A.GARBO: (*Suitably disguised with hat and sunglasses*) Agent Garbo, Department of Cunning Disguises. Strangely attractive but you'll never guess I'm a spy.

A.WIGLET: (*Sporting a wig and beard*) Agent Wiglet. For all your wigs and facial hair requirements.

A.FANCY: (*Wearing something outrageously theatrical*) Agent Fancy. Masquerade Balls are my speciality. You can't beat a disguise that stands out in a crowd.

AGENTS GARBO, WIGLET and FANCY end their introduction with a group pose.

MILKWEED: That's scary.

BOGBEAN: Agreed.

FOXGLOVE: Apart from the shades. Shades are cool.

A.EEEP: Agent Eeep. Department for the Prevention of Alien Species Taking over the World. (*Starts 'scanning' the Rookies with a gadget and making the scanning noises.*) Eeeeeeeeeee ne ne ne.... beeeeeeep...

The ROOKIES yelp and jump about as if they are being tickled as the scanning device is used.

A.BURRP: Agent Burrp. Alien Immigration and Integration Officer. Anything to declare? (*The ROOKIES look nervously at each other.*) Only kidding!

A.ZIGZIG: Agent Zigzig. Languages. Aspeeee – doo – weeeeeny – di – di – di – blaaaa.

BOGBEAN, FOXGLOVE & MILKWEED are left clinging to each other trying to recover from the scan. They are unable to speak properly.

MILKWEED: (*Struggling to talk*) Waaaa nii din tooas eees?

A.ZIGZIG: (*Appraising MILKWEED'S command of 'alien' language*) Very promising. This one shows a basic understanding of the common street talk of the Bongwellians.

AGENT THE JELLY HAS SET, AGENT THE TOAST HAS LANDED and AGENT THE TEAPOT IS IN THE NEST sidle up to them in turn during the following before disappearing quickly in a furtive manner.

A.THE JELLY HAS SET: Agent The Jelly Has Set, Department of The Cookie Crumbles at Noon. The boat is leaving but the crew are not on board.

A.THE TOAST HAS LANDED: Agent The Toast Has Landed. The heat is on and the flowers are wilting.

A.THE TEAPOT IS IN THE NEST: Agent The Teapot Is In The Nest. The beans aren't jumping. Repeat. The beans aren't jumping.

ROOKIES: Ohhh – kay.

E.BUNNY: Right! I have it. Your first mission at Spy School and one, I hope, worthy of you fine Bunch of Rookies.

MILKWEED: Foxglove, what have you got us into?

BOGBEAN: Maybe we could just all take a break and think about this in a sort of cowardly way?

MILKWEED: Yes, like NOT going on a mission.

BOGBEAN: At all.

FOXGLOVE: It'll be fine, just stay cool. We're ready Easter Bunny.

E.BUNNY: You have just met the six departments of Spy School. There is a Seventh Department - somewhere. In order to locate it you will need to use all the talents you have, some you don't have and a few you know nothing about. So, just to be fair, you will be given a short training session before you start. You will report back here by ... ummm ... shall we say noon with the precise location of the Seventh Department. Synchronise watches!

Everyone except the ROOKIES looks at their watches (which should be in a variety of strange places) - possibly listening to a sound effect of a large clock chiming / talking clock.

E.BUNNY: That's it. Good luck Rookies!

EASTER BUNNY exits giggling.

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