Mission Possible

By Kat Pennington

Meet Pete and Polly

Have you ever wanted to go on an adventure? Have you ever wanted to be a spy? Well this booklet is all about two twins who have a special secret. By reading this story, you will learn their spy-licious secret and build your way to writing your own adventure story.

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You can listen to an audio version of the story here:
https://soundcloud.com/talkforwriting/mission/s-qMLb31YjpM7

Mission Possible

Pete and Polly were completely ordinary, totally normal and utterly boring twins – or so everyone thought. They wore ordinary clothes, took part in normal, everyday activities and were, in fact, boring – or so everyone thought.

You see, Pete and Polly Powers had a secret. It wasn't an ordinary, normal or boring secret and it was a secret that lived just between them (and you, in a moment, if you keep on reading!) Not even their teachers, parents or Scout Leader knew about their secret. No one … until now. Now, this secret can only be entrusted to the most daring, brave and adventurous of children – do you think you can be trusted? Okay then … well … here we go … Pete and Polly are spies!

It all began last summer when they saw an article in the local newspaper advertising for two undercover agents to help fight global crime. Pete and Polly wasted no time in applying and, after a rigorous induction process, they were accepted into the governments' secret Spy Programme. Their assignments have involved the most daring of adventures like rescuing the Prime Minister from a sudden volcanic eruption and preventing the kidnap of the Queen's corgis from Buckingham Palace! Pete and Polly were very good at their job and very good at keeping their identity a secret.

One spring morning, while having breakfast, Pete's watch lit up – it was a message from the Government's top chief of security, Cyril Secret, and it

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read:

"Background: Last week the notorious thieves Dodgy Roger and Raucus Reggie stole the Yata no Kagami - a mirror which belongs to the Three Sacred Treasures of Japan.

Your Mission: To retrieve the Yata no Kagami - and return it to the Japanese embassy in London.

When: Tonight

Where: You will find it and the thieves in the abandoned riverboat docked on the Thames.

Note: Delete this message instantly."

Pete and Polly looked at each other and, in unison, smirked: "No problem." Pete, quickly switched his phone off and threw it into his school bag.

The day soon passed and, at precisely midnight, the sharp shrill of an alarm woke the twins. Instantly, they jumped out of bed, grabbed their spy bags and flew down the stairs, closing the front door quietly behind them so as to not wake anyone else.

Ten minutes later, they found themselves on the edge of the Thames staring at the abandoned riverboat. Outside the cold wind howled and bit at their ears, street lights flickered and an uncomfortable mist slithered across the dangerously deep water.

Inside the boat, Pete and Polly saw the silhouette of two large men sitting hunched across a table from one another with the only light coming from an old oil lantern. They seemed to be arguing. With

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hearts pounding and hands trembling, Pete and Polly snuck into the boat and hid behind the broken door.

On the table, they could see the Emperor's mirror.

"What now?" asked Pete in trepidation.

"You distract 'em and I will grab the mirror," replied Polly confidently.

They both nodded. They knew what they had to do.

Without hesitation, Pete dropped a small green capsule which filled the boat with a fine green mist. At the same time, Polly ran towards the table where the men sat, grabbed the mirror, flung it into her rucksack and then they both sprinted back up onto the deck.

Suddenly, coming from the cabin, they heard the unmistakable sound of fast-paced, heavy footsteps and loud angry voices.

"Quick!" Shouted Polly and, on that command, they fled. They didn't look back. They didn't stumble. They were trained for moments like this. Fast, focused and determined they continued sprinting until eventually the angry footsteps and loud shouting faded.

On the way to school the next morning, Polly and Pete made a small detour to a beautiful Victorian building in Piccadilly, Mayfair, that had a large Japanese flag blowing gentle in the breeze. On the doorstep they carefully placed an object concealed in brown cloth

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and gave each other a high five and knowing wink. "Mission possible!" Polly chuckled.

Just then, Pete stopped suddenly. Slowly, he looked down at his wrist to see his watch flashing once more. It was another message from Cyril Secret …

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Let's chat about the story

What do you think to the story? Let's have a chat about it together. Answer these questions, you can write the answers down if you like or just discuss it with someone.

In *a nutshell, what was this story about? As a challenge, can you tell me what the story was about but only use 20 words!*

Let's chat some more… record your thoughts here:

What did you like about the story?	Was there anything you didn't like or didn't understand?
Does this story remind you of any other books or films that you have read or seen?	Do you have any questions about the story?

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True-or-False Quiz!

Welcome to my quiz! I love quizzes and I need you to mark mine for me. Am I right or wrong? Be ready to explain how you know if I have got the answer right or wrong! You may find it useful to circle and draw on the story where you find the answer. If you get really stuck, the answers are at the back of this booklet.

Question	My answer	Is my answer right?	How do you know?
Pete and Polly are brother and sister.	True		
Pete and Polly's Scout Leader knew their secret – that they were spies.	True		
One of the twin's missions was to rescue the Prime Minister from an earthquake.	False		
The Yata no Kagami is one of the Five Sacred Treasures of Japan.	False		
The story is set in London.	True		
The Yata no Kagamu is a mirror.	True		
They set off on their adventure to retrieve the mirror at midnight.	False		
The mirror was hidden underground.	False		
The green capsule created a green mist when it was dropped.	True		
The last day of the story is a Saturday.	False		

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Now I need you to be detectives for me and look for clues to answer these questions. Here are four questions which I am not sure of the answer to so I need your help. What do you think the answers are and why? Can you find any clues in the story to help you?

1) The men on the boat were Dodgy Rodger and Raucus Reggie.

2) Polly and Pete were successful in their mission and left the mirror on the doorstep of the Japanese Embassy.

3) At the end of the story Pete is given another mission.

4) Pete and Polly are brave.

Your turn to be Quiz Master!

Could you write a quiz for someone based on this story or another one that you have read? Make sure you know the answers though.

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What happened when?

Use the story mountain to help you put the events in the right order:

The twins venture out into the night and find the riverboat with the mirror.

Pete and Polly are given a mission to rescue the Yata no Kagami.

Pete and Polly drop an item wrapped in brown cloth to the Japanese Embassy the next day.

Pete and Polly run away from the thieves and escape.

They snatch the mirror from the thieves by distracting them but they are then chased.

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Wonderful Words

Often in stories there are some words which we do not know the meaning of. Can you match these words to their correct definition? Psst … the answers are at the back of this booklet but try not to look unless you get stuck.

ordinary	a feeling of fear, worry or anxiety
entrusted	nothing really special about it – quite normal
sacred	the building where an ambassador of a country lives or works
Japan	a boat designed to be used on rivers
embassy	the river that flows through London
River Thames	a sort of smile that says you are pleased with yourself, or smug, or being silly
oil lantern	a country in East Asia
smirked	a container holding oil that can be used as a light
trepidation	being given something to take care of and really look after
riverboat	hidden
concealed	describing something connected to God or religion

Are there any other words you are not sure of? Record them here and ask an adult if you can or use the internet or look in a dictionary if you have one.

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Day 3

Next week, you are going to write your own story in the style of 'Mission Impossible', so this is your time to plan your characters and think about how you will show what type of characters they are..

Write some ideas for character names here:

Names for your main characters (goodies)	Names for your bad characters

Learning from Other Writers
It is great to read another writer's work and use their ideas to influence our own. Let's do some reading and look at this paragraph about a teacher:

Mr Hawthorn strode into the classroom, slammed his briefcase on top of his desk and perched on the edge of his pristine leather chair. He stared intensely out of the window and his angular nose twitched.

The air was filled with an uncomfortable silence until Jimmy Jones stuttered: "Please, Sir, what will we be learning today?"

A smile slithered across Mr Hawthorn's page-white face. "Today, boy," he hissed through brown, broken teeth, "you will learn nothing."

From reading the paragraph above what do you know about Mr Hawthorn?

- Is he nice? How do you know?
- What does he look like?
- How does he move?
- How does he speak? What does that tell us?
- Do you think he suits his name?
- Do you think other people like him? How do you know?
- Do you like him? Explain your answer.

Choose your favourite word or line from the passage above and jot it down below – maybe you could use it, or something similar in your own story:

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Read this paragraph, which has been taken from Chapter 1 of Anthony 'Horowitz book Never Say Die'. (Thanks to Anthony for letting me use this):

In fact, the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC) had met in their offices close to the Houses of Parliament just a few days before and had agreed that the threat level at the Suffolk Air Show would remain at MODERATE. They weren't expecting any trouble.

And so nobody paid very much attention to the woman who arrived just after three o'clock. She had driven into the car park in a Ford Transit van which, according to the Automatic Number Plate Recognition system, belonged to the St John Ambulance service. This is the country's leading first-aid charity and, indeed, the woman was dressed in the green and black uniform of a local volunteer. She was carrying a nylon bag marked with a white cross which, if opened, would reveal medicine and bandages.

She was short and round-shouldered with dark red hair that had been cut so badly that it stuck out straight on one side of her head and curled in on the other. There was something quite aggressive about the way she walked, like a boxer about to enter the ring. She was overweight, breathing heavily, with beads of sweat on her upper lip. She had a lot of make-up on but it did nothing to make her more attractive, sitting uselessly on her leathery skin. As she walked, she put on a pair of cheap sunglasses. They concealed the smouldering violence in her eyes.

From reading this, what do you know about the lady in the story?

- Is she a goodie or a baddie in the story? How do you know?
- Where is she? Is this important to her character do you think?
- What does she look like?
- Why do you think she doesn't have a name? If she did have a name, what do you think it could be?
- Do you think other people will like her? Why do you think that?
- What do you think (predict) will happen?

Choose your favourite word or line from the passage above and record it below – maybe you could use it, or something similar in your own story:

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Your characters

Now you have got a name for the characters in your story, why not create a character profile for them. Print this page again if you are going to have more than 2 characters in your story.

Name:

Age:

Where they live:

Siblings (brothers and sisters):

Appearance (what they look like):

Personality (what they are like):

Draw a picture of what they look like:

Name:

Age:

Where they live:

Siblings (brothers and sisters):

Appearance (what they look like):

Personality (what they are like):

Draw a picture of what they look like:

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Settings

Settings (where the story takes place) are really important. They can make the reader feel safe or scare them. What settings from stories or films can you think of? List them here:

‘Mission Possible ’is set in London and the sacred treasure is hidden on an abandoned riverboat on the Thames (a famous river that runs through London). The author chose the abandoned riverboat at night because they thought that it would be a bit scary.

Collect some setting ideas (I have done a few to get you started):

Normal everyday settings

house, kitchen, library

Scary settings

(also think about the time of day as this can make a place scary)

disused railway track

Interesting/unusual settings

fairground
space/another planet

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Let's look at using adjectives (describing words) in our story. Sometimes it is really useful to provide the reader with a clear picture of what something or someone looks like.

Top Tip! Every word must earn its place – if you use too many adjectives it can spoil your writing – only use a few that really work.

The crown was bright gold and covered in delicate, shimmering jewels. At the front was a large scarlet ruby, the size of a coffee cup and the base was covered in the softest, pale-green velvet. The crown looked very heavy but it was breathtakingly beautiful.

Can you spot the adjectives? I have coloured them in red for you:

The crown was bright gold and covered in delicate, shimmering jewels. At the front was a large scarlet ruby, the size of a coffee cup and the base was covered in the softest, pale-green velvet. The crown looked very heavy but it was breathtakingly beautiful.

Now your turn. In the story it says:

On the table, they could see the Emperor's mirror.

But it doesn't tell us what the mirror looks like!

Can you draw a picture of what you think the mirror looks like and then use adjectives to help describe it? You could just label it with adjectives or write a paragraph that could go into the story – use my example above to help you if you want.

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