

## **COLD WAR SPIES. SPARKS TERMINALE**

Calaméo. Pages of the book

<https://fr.calameo.com/read/00322162292d8fd4707b7?authid=z9Q4EDTOJN2r>

<https://manuelnumeriquemax.belin.education/anglais-terminale>



Quizlets

Page 131

<https://quizlet.com/fr/655580766/spies-always-live-twice-sparks-page-131-flash-cards/>

Page 133

<https://quizlet.com/fr/655581477/incredible-spies-sparks-page-133-flash-cards/>

Page 135-139

<https://quizlet.com/fr/655581208/behind-the-mask-female-intelligence-from-russia-with-loath-sparks-page-135-137-139-flash-cards/>

<https://www.libmanuels.fr/demo/9791035813574/0?version=1&title=Anglais%20English%20Sparks%20Tle%20-%20%C3%A9d.%202020&editor=Belin>

[https://quizlet.com/\\_9um60u?x=1jqt&i=19mw7p](https://quizlet.com/_9um60u?x=1jqt&i=19mw7p)

[https://quizlet.com/\\_9jhfe8?x=1jqt&i=19mw7p](https://quizlet.com/_9jhfe8?x=1jqt&i=19mw7p)

[https://quizlet.com/\\_9bijas?x=1jqt&i=19mw7p](https://quizlet.com/_9bijas?x=1jqt&i=19mw7p)

[https://quizlet.com/\\_997ykq?x=1jqt&i=19mw7p](https://quizlet.com/_997ykq?x=1jqt&i=19mw7p)

[https://quizlet.com/\\_9t5oq2?x=1jqt&i=19mw7p](https://quizlet.com/_9t5oq2?x=1jqt&i=19mw7p)

Kahoot : No time to die <https://create.kahoot.it/details/bac8ed5f-866c-430e-9b14-e0e4167e3897>

**AXE 5 – FICTIONS ET RÉALITÉS**

What are the historical, social or artistic models each population has inherited and what are the ones it is looking for?

Stories, whether real or fictional, written or oral, are at the base of the cultural heritage of the individuals and feed the collective imagination. Do the figures of the past remain sources of inspiration and creation?

The imaginary worlds offer to each one the occasion escape from reality while inviting to reflect on the real world.

How does reality feed fiction?

How, in turn, does fiction illuminate reality or how does it make it evolve in a given cultural area?

## **How do real spies live in our imagination?**

What is the place of the spy in the contemporary imagination? How do the different authors reconstruct reality by reinterpreting the portrait of past figures of the past? What influence do their works have on our perception of secret agents?

Encourage students to question the way in which reality permeates (imprègne) fiction through the example of the historical James Bond and Ian Fleming's James Bond.

### **Axis 5 : Fiction & Reality**

#### **Theme : Cold War Spies**

#### **Problematic : How do real spies live in our imagination ?**

#### **How does reality nourish fiction ?**

**I. Anticipation :** Video "In 2 minutes animation Cold War explained in 4 mns" <https://youtu.be/VL5iL0nyLVo>

From the mid 1940s to the early 1990s, during the period known as the Cold War, intense political and economic rivalry existed between the USA and the Soviet Union and their respective allies. Intelligence services were used by both sides as a way of learning what the other was doing and scheming. It was the heyday of spies and double agents.

#### **Test your knowledge : What do you know about the cold War and secret services ?**

KGB Soviet Union (former)

CIA American (outside the USA)

FBI American (inside the USA)

MI5 Britain (inside) = Military Intelligence Section

MI6 Britain (outside) = SIS (Secret Intelligence Service)

SOE Britain (former = during WWII only) = Special Operations Executive

Stasi (East Germany) (former)

DGSE & DGSI France

FSSRF Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation (current)

**Homework:** Do some research about cold war and find out what famous spies were after(what did they look for?). (10 lines minimum). Copy vocabulary page 131 + 133. Write at least 5 sentences with these words using [linguee.fr](http://linguee.fr)(change the sentences). Listen to the audio 90, book page 130 and read the text.

**BOOK PAGE 128:** Talk about James Bond in general. Brainstorming: Vocabulary linked to SPIES(verbs, adjectives, nouns, adverbs....).

Talk about the quote: At their core, spy novels are about secrets. Secrets create power. Power determines how we live.

What type of secrets can a spy be looking for?

Talk about war.

What can you say about gadgets in James Bond movies?

Watch this video and comment in groups:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0zm1WX2nQ5c>



Group work:

**1. Look at the Bond photo on the left and the poster on the right.**

- Focus on the people in both pictures. Imagine who they are and how they are related.
- In the poster, pick out the symbols and objects. What does each element symbolise?
- Compare the situation shown in both pictures. Analyse the atmosphere.

**2. Now, read the text.**

- Pick out the following elements: people • places • time • jobs
- Focus on the people and explain how they are connected.

**3. Conclude. Use all the information to explain the gap between the portraits of fictional spies and real ones. What does it reveal about our perception of spies? Discuss with the class.**

**“I am the real James Bond”**

A wartime spy thought by his family to have inspired James Bond has been given a “007” gravestone after relatives found he had served under Bond author Ian Fleming.

James Charles Bond, from Swansea, “took his secret past to his grave” when he died in 1995.

His grandson Stephen Phillips found out he had served under Fleming in WW2 as a Special Operations Executive (SOE).

Documents found by Mr Phillips showed that former metalworker Mr Bond, who was born in Pontypridd, was a member of the elite SOE working on missions under former Naval commander Fleming before he became an author.

“Grandfather took my cousin Jenny when she was a teenager by the hand one day saying, ‘Believe me when I tell you, I am the real James Bond’. Nothing more was said and no questions were asked,” he said.

“But we found out that grandad was a spy working behind enemy lines, and in 1942 that Ian Fleming put an elite team of SOEs together for a mission, details of which have not been disclosed”.

“It is only right that his military past is listed on his headstone,” he said.

“Seeing the headstone standing proud recognising grandad's ‘007’ status and proper birth name has been so important to our family.”

Fleming, who died in 1964, has said that James Bond was named after a US ornithologist, saying he wanted a “plain, simple name” for his superspy.

“Real-life James Bond’ from Swansea given 007 gravestone”, BBC, 2019

Wales News Service

James Charles Bond and his family, 1937



former [sb/sth] *ex- / ancien [qqch/qqn]*

- a metalworker *un forgeron*
- under [sb]'s *sous les ordres de [qqn]*
- to disclose *divulguer*

Ian Fleming (1908-1964)



This English author grew up in a wealthy family before being recruited as a Naval Intelligence Officer during World War II. He drew inspiration from his experience to write **Casino Royale**, his first novel with the MI6 spy James Bond, which was followed by a 12-volume, best-selling series. Known by his code number 007, Bond is gifted with high levels of intelligence, athleticism and charm as well as an amazing sense of humour.

**THINK page 130.**

## **Spies Always Live Twice**

Portrait of a spy: does fiction meet reality?

The family photograph and the article deal with the life of the real James Bond, a British spy who was given a '007' gravestone.

These documents show him as an ordinary citizen from a modest background. He mostly lived a simple and peaceful life.

Because his spy life is kept secret, the article doesn't report any details on his missions as a SOE in Fleming's team.

On the contrary, the poster of the James Bond film displays an illustration of dangerous espionage missions, involving both sides of the Western and Eastern blocs. There are also portraits of Bond and tough or seductive spy rivals.

The fictional portrait of Bond's spy life is certainly based on real facts, but it was transformed to entertain the public.

In a sense, our perception of secret agents is determined by the way they are shown by authors.

The family photograph and the article take as their subject the life of the real James Bond, a British spy who was given a '007' gravestone.

These documents show him as an ordinary citizen from a modest background. Indeed, on the whole he led a simple and peaceful life.

Since anyone who has any information about his life as a spy will be bound to secrecy, the article doesn't provide a specific account of his missions as a SOE when he served under Ian Fleming's command.

Conversely, the poster of the James Bond film features an illustration of risky espionage missions across the Western and Eastern blocs. It also displays portraits of Bond and several spy rivals who are shown as either tough or seductive.

The fictional portrait of Bond's spy life is certainly grounded in truth but was sensationalized to entertain the public.

To a certain extent, our perception of secret agents is determined by the way they are depicted by authors.

Discover the identity of the real James Bond and his representation in the works of fiction

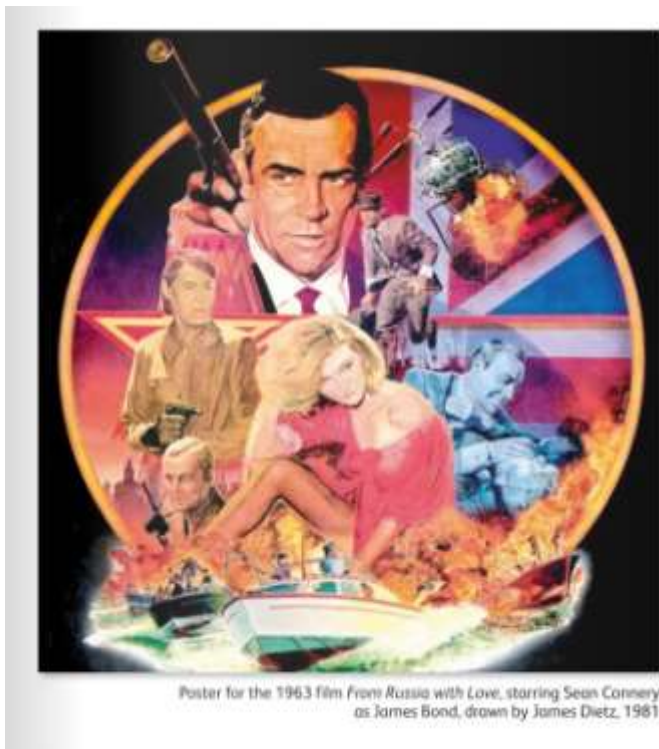
« either... or... »

- Special Operations Executive (1940-1946): This British spy service was created by Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

Winston Churchill. Its main missions were to support the resistance movements and to thwart the plans of the Nazis during the Second World War.

- From Russia with Love, 1963: This is the second Bond adventure to be brought to the screen; there are now 24.

The film is based on Ian Fleming's 5th spy novel about the adventures of James Bond, published in 1957. In the middle of the Cold War, James Bond's mission is to get Tatiana Romanova to the West and to steal a Soviet code reader. a Soviet decoding reader. But it later turns out that it was a trap set by the SPECTRE organization to seize the reader and avenge Dr. No's death.



Poster for the 1963 film *From Russia with Love*, starring Sean Connery as James Bond, drawn by James Dietz, 1961

### Look at the pages entitled “Spies Always Live Twice”

- Identify the different documents.
- Read the questions and the training task.
- Look at the “help” section: this is where you will find the tools you need.

#### 1. Look at the Bond photo on the left and the poster on the right.

- a. Focus on the people in both pictures. Imagine who they are and how they are related.

The black and white photograph portrays the real James Charles Bond posing with his family. The film poster features a close-up of the fictional James Bond as well as other characters from the film. The dramatic film poster contrasts with the photograph of the real Bond and makes us think that being a spy probably isn't as glamorous and dramatic as films might suggest.

- b. In the poster, pick out the symbols and objects. What does each element symbolise?

In the background, the Union Jack represents Great Britain, Bond's home country for whom he is fighting.

There are many guns in the poster, which symbolise the fighting that will go on between the various spies.

All the fire further expands upon this image of violence and destruction. The red star could be a symbol of communism..

- c. Compare the situation shown in both pictures. Analyse the atmosphere.

The picture of 'the real Bond' with his family is an example of a private and peaceful family moment, in real everyday life. However, the second image is a film poster, which depicts dramatic scenes of violence and destruction, glamorising and exaggerating the life of a spy.

## **2. Now, read the text.**

a. Pick out the following elements: people • places • time • jobs

James Charles Bond was born in Pontypridd and was a metalworker before he became a Special Operations Executive in 1942. He died in 1995 without publicly revealing his past as a spy.

Ian Fleming served as a Naval commander during World War II. He then wrote a series of James Bond novels until his death in 1964.

Stephen Phillips discovered documents about his grandfather James Charles Bond's secret past.

Bond told Phillips' cousin Jenny that he was the real 007 when she was a teenager. .

*Before you start Now answer the questions together*

b. Focus on the people and explain how they are connected.

When Bond's granddaughter Jenny was a teenager, he revealed to her that he was the real James Bond.

Years later, his grandson, and Jenny's cousin, Stephen Phillips, unearthed classified documents revealing that during World War II, his grandfather was a Special Operations Executive under the command of naval intelligence officer Ian Fleming, who later became a famous novelist. To pay tribute to their grandfather, and his career in espionage, the family gave him a gravestone with 007 engraved on it.

## **3. Conclude. Use all the information to explain the gap between the portraits of fictional spies and real ones. What does it reveal about our perception of spies? Discuss with the class.**

It goes without saying that the adventures of fictional spies in films and TV series are based on the lives of real spies, but obviously, elements are exaggerated in order to make the shows more exciting and appealing to audiences. These adaptations mostly focus on the risky missions of these spies and rely on stereotypes such as dangerous weapons, huge explosions, evil enemies, great strength and good looks. Real spies have to keep their careers a secret, and since they can't reveal anything, their lives don't seem anywhere near as interesting. Indeed, the article reports that the real Bond was a SOE. He is simply portrayed as a British citizen from a modest background who had a short military career and mostly lived a plain and traditional life.

From what we know about him, his 'spy' life was in no way as dramatic as that of the fictional James Bond.

In a sense, our understanding of spies is determined by the way they are portrayed by authors.



# Incredible Spies

What do fictional spies embody?

**Trailer**  
**The Man From U.N.C.L.E.**  
 Directed by Guy Ritchie, 2015

ONLINE

2:18



Poster for the movie *The Man From U.N.C.L.E.*, 2015

## The Man from U.N.C.L.E. review

Guy Ritchie's reboot of the Sixties TV show mixes international intrigue with escapist fun.

- Guy Ritchie's *The Man from U.N.C.L.E.* may be the first spy thriller in which the only person the secret agent hero really wants to sleep with is himself. It's true that Napoleon Solo (Henry Cavill), an impossibly suave-art thief turned undercover CIA operative in Cold War Berlin, falls into bed with a couple of beautiful women in the line of duty. But it really is a duty: you get the impression he'd have far more fun with a wardrobe full of freshly pressed suits and a full-length mirror.
- Solo's most meaningful relationship is with Ilya Kuryakin (Armie Hammer), his glowering, KGB counterpart, with whom he's been paired for a potentially world-saving mission involving a missing nuclear scientist and a billionaire fascist fanatic. Ritchie's film is about the pair's quest to prevent World War Three through stealth, subterfuge and the occasional shoot-out – but it's also about the joy of watching the two interact, as they bicker, preen, trade double entendres, and, eventually, grudgingly collaborate. Both agents are oppositely charged – Solo insouciant and devil-may-care, Kuryakin buttoned-up and controlled – which means chemistry binds them together. Call it a covalent Bond movie.
- Ritchie starts his story from scratch, with Solo and Kuryakin chasing each other around East Berlin while the former tries to smuggle a precious cargo across the Wall. Gaby Teller (Alicia Vikander), a German car mechanic and the daughter of the missing scientist. The climactic car chase isn't as loud or obviously dangerous as others we've seen this summer but it has the wit and grace of a great dance number.

The next morning, the pair meet again in a public bathroom, where their superiors make the necessary introductions. They'll now both be working together with Teller to locate her father, who seems to have become mixed up with Victoria Vinciguerra (Elizabeth Debicki), a fabulously dressed, fascistically inclined Italian socialite, who hasn't allowed the recent downfalls of Hitler and Mussolini to dissuade her from the cause.

The trio's mission takes them to Rome, which after the bleakness of Berlin, lights up on the screen with a kind of ethereal picture-postcard glow. Ritchie and his director of photography, John Mathieson, have made U.N.C.L.E. look convincingly old: the lighting is thick and buttery, the camerawork mostly restrained, and the colours bluish like an old Technicolor print. Daniel Pemberton's score, a rich Bovrilly blend of John Barry and Ennio Morricone, adds to the nostalgic mood.

by Robbie Collin, *The Telegraph*, 2015

- an operative un(e) agent
- KGB service de renseignement
- stealth la discrétion
- to bicker se chamailler
- to preen se faire beaux-belle
- a double entendre un sous-entendu
- grudgingly à contrecoeur
- devil-may-care éhémérite
- buttoned-up guindé(e)
- covalent fuaisonné(e)
- to start from scratch partir de zéro
- to smuggle (s)écher
- to introduce (s)apporter
- wit la vivacité
- bleakness la morosité
- ethereal délicat(e)
- buttery doux comme du beurre
- to bluish rougir

### Look at the poster

- 1 Observe each character. Then, imagine their personality and skills.

### Read the text

- 2 Were your hypotheses right? How are the characters presented?
- 3 Choose your role and share your findings with your group.
  - A CIA historian: pick out the historical facts.
  - An intelligence analyst: focus on what happens.
  - An MI6 psychologist: find clues on the relationship between the characters.
- 4 Now, imagine you are a film critic. Focus on how the story is told and the way the characters are described. Do you find it realistic? Why or why not?

### DU DOC À L'AXE FICTIONS ET RÉALITÉS

Why do you think spy movies are still popular today?

### TRAINING TASK

You are working for an intelligence agency and your chief has asked you to write a 200-word report on a spy from the U.N.C.L.E. agency. Indicate their personal information (real & code name, date & place of birth, nationality...), add a photo, describe their personality, their skills, and their current mission.

## Feed 1 page 132 Incredible Spies

### Incredible Spies

### What do fictional spies embody?

The fictional characters are certainly inspired by existing models and evolve in a credible historical context but are not an exact reflection of reality. Their portraits are stereotyped to echo our fantasies and thus arouse our empathy and admiration.

WHO/WHOM/WHICH Read the lesson and do the exercise online:  
<https://www.anglaisfacile.com/exercices/exercice-anglais-2/exercice-anglais-11097.php>

Listen to the text page 132(MP3 92) and read the text out loud

- The Man from U.N.C.L.E. is originally a television series that was very successful in the 1960s. It features the adventures of a Russian and an American secret agent working for U.N.C.L.E., an international counter-intelligence agency that fights mainly against the criminal organization THRUSH.
- Guy Ritchie is a contemporary British director, screenwriter and producer born in 1968. He is known for his two film adaptations of Sherlock Holmes and his marriage to the singer Madonna.



- Central Intelligence Agency: founded in 1947, the CIA is an American intelligence agency. Unlike the FBI, it operates outside the United States but may be required to carry out certain missions on American soil, particularly when they involve the recruitment of foreign citizens who can provide information about their country of Origin.

This movie takes place during the Cold War after Mussolini and Hitler's downfalls.

Two CIA and KGB spies work together to stop a nuclear threat posed by a fascist woman. They will have to fight against her. The last agent is a German mechanic and the daughter of a missing scientist kidnapped by the villainess. The complementary skills of the three spies enable them to complete their mission. This reboot of a 1960s TV series demonstrates that old-fashioned spies can still entertain us.

It portrays superspies whose characteristics and behaviour are exaggerated to attract the attention of the audience. They operate in the shadows to work for the common good and are able to overcome any menacing obstacle.

This idealized version of a spy mission permits the viewer to escape from reality.

This movie is set during the Cold War after the fall of dictators like Mussolini and Hitler.

Two rival operatives from the CIA and the KGB join forces to interrupt a nuclear threat posed by a powerful fascist woman against whom they will have to fight. The final agent to be recruited is a German mechanic and the daughter of a missing

scientist kidnapped by the villainess. Even though the three spies are worlds apart, their complementary skills enable them to complete their mission with success.

This reboot of a 1960s TV series proves that old-fashioned spies can still entertain the contemporary audience.

It portrays superspies whose traits and actions are exaggerated to arouse the interest of the audience. These spies operate in the shadows, keeping undercover to work in the name of the common good. They are able to overcome any menacing obstacle that threatens them.

To conclude, one can argue that this idealized portrayal of a spy mission enables viewers to escape from reality.

## **THINK page 130**

*Look at the Vocab page of the chapter for help!*

### **Look at the poster**

#### **1. Observe each character. Then, imagine their personality and skills.**

Two men of the same size are standing back to back in front of the Colosseum in Rome. The man on the right is dressed in a formal suit. In a way, his style is reminiscent of James Bond's charming and smooth appearance. His partner is dressed in a more casual outfit and his piercing eyes show that he is a wary and determined man. The young lady with sunglasses and a trendy dress who is standing near a car might get caught up in the action of the two other spies. In the background, you can make out a close-up of a woman with a menacing gaze, which leads us to believe she must be the villain of the story.

### **Read the Text**

#### **2. Were your hypotheses, right? How are the characters presented?**

Napoleon Solo is a former thief who became a CIA officer. He is a self-centred, suave, and manipulative womanizer. His partner is Illya Kuryakin, a KGB officer who is quiet and introverted. The last agent to be recruited is Gaby Teller, a German mechanic and the daughter of a missing scientist who has been kidnapped by Victoria Vinciguerra. This villainess is described as a cruel Italian socialite, who is always dressed to the nines, but wants to wreak havoc.

#### **3. Choose your role and share your findings with your group.**

**A CIA historian:** pick out the historical facts.

The scenes take place during the Cold War in Berlin and then Rome after the recent downfalls of Mussolini and Hitler.

## **■ Look at the pages entitled "Incredible Spies" p. 132**

- Identify the different documents.
- Read the questions and the training task.
- Look at the "help" section: this is where you will find the tools you need.

**FEED 1**

**An intelligence analyst:** focus on what happens.

Two rival operatives from the CIA and the KGB join forces to stop a nuclear threat posed by a powerful villainess. They must prevent a third World War through manipulation, stealth, cunning, car chases and gunfights.

**An MI6 psychologist:** find clues on the relationship between the characters.

Even if the backgrounds, origins and personalities of the three spies differ, their complementary skills eventually enable them to save the world. Solo and Kuryakin are poles apart and often argue, but in many ways work very well together. They don't really respect Teller at first, but she is eventually accepted and integrated in the team.

**4. Now, imagine you are a film critic. Focus on how the story is told and the characters are described.**

**Do you find it**

**realistic? Why or why not?**

The story is captivating because it gives audiences a glimpse into the glamorous yet dangerous life of a spy, and the action takes place in a whole host of different locations; in this way, it helps audiences escape from their daily lives and immerse themselves in something completely new. It bears a lot in common with the James Bond films, from the plot to the aesthetics. The characteristics and missions of the spies are slightly exaggerated from real life, so as to keep audiences hooked throughout the film, and therefore it can be categorized as a pastiche. It probably isn't the most realistic film, as the fight scenes are rather dramatized,

but that's what makes it such a good watch! Even though many spy films and TV series have been made over the years, the success of this film proves that modern audiences are still intrigued by thrilling spy stories.

**Train for your BAC**

**Why do you think spy movies are still popular today?**

I think the spy genre is still as popular as ever because people enjoy the dramatic action scenes, glamorous characters and complex plots. It's interesting and exciting to try and guess what might happen or get to the bottom of the mystery before the characters do. Audiences enjoy being able to lose themselves in the drama of the film, forgetting about the stress of their everyday lives, and for this reason it doesn't look like we'll stop making spy movies anytime soon!

You are working for an intelligence agency and your chief has asked you to write a 200-word report on a spy from the U.N.C.L.E. agency. Indicate their personal information (real & code name, date & place of birth, nationality...), add a photo, describe their personality, their skills, and their current mission.

• **On your own at home:**

Write the outline of your report. Then, research some information on one of the spies from the U.N.C.L.E. agency. Finally, select a photo of the agent.

• **Together in class**

Use the information you got to write your 200-word report. Then, add your photo.

## **FEED 1**

*Look at the Vocab page of the chapter for help!*

**1. Focus on the pictures.**

a. Focus on the details and symbols of the poster. What do they represent?

The leather glove might represent stealth and the glasses could symbolise the intelligence of the main character.

Inside his glasses the phrase 'the enemy is within' indicates that there is a mole working inside his intelligence agency.

The codes are probably classified information, which might be hacked into, or used to uncover the mystery.

b. Focus on the words of the poster and explain who the man is.

George Smiley is a counterespionage agent who has to track and unmask a KGB double agent within MI6.

c. Focus on the man in the photo p. 135 and compare him to the man in the poster.

In the photo, George Blake, a double agent, comes across as charismatic thanks to his smile and warm gaze, which make him seem confident and friendly. Just like the man in the poster, he is rather elegantly dressed, which contributes to the stereotypical image of a charming and stylish spy. Contrary to Blake, Smiley's gaze is cold and piercing, since he has a big mission ahead of him.

**2. Watch the video p. 135.**

a. Report facts and dates about the career, private life and thoughts of George Blake.

George Blake started his spy career at MI6 in the Cold War but during his 3-year detention in North Korea he discovered communism and came to strongly believe in it. After his release in 1953, he was sent to Berlin by MI6 but

turned out to be a double agent who relayed classified information back over to the KGB. He was found out and sentenced to 42 years in prison but managed to escape to Moscow and create a new life for himself under the name of Georgy Ivanovich.

b. What was his goal in life?

His goal in life was to serve the communist political system which he considered morally righteous, and in which he strongly believed.

c. What reputation did he first have? Did it last? Justify your answer.

At first, he was considered an excellent spy, but once his betrayal of the country was revealed, his reputation was tarnished, and the British people considered him a dishonourable traitor. However, in Russia, he was awarded many medals and they even raised him to the rank of hero.

### 3. Conclude. Do these spies and their stories surprise you? Explain why.

George Smiley is a fictional counterintelligence agent and George Blake was a real KGB mole. They both led unconventional lives as spies, having to act with much caution and secrecy on sensitive cases to avoid being detected. However, both debunk the myth of the stereotypical spy to an extent. Blake betrayed his country which denounced him as immoral and Smiley doesn't necessarily conform to the stereotype of the handsome and seductive spy.

Write a 200-word dialogue between G. Blake and a counterespionage agent of MI6. The agent suspects that Blake is working for the KGB and wants to make him confess that he is a mole. Act out the conversation

#### • On your own at home

Do further research on one of Blake's mission for the KGB. Then, find some information about counterespionage agents.

#### • Together in class

Use your information to write a 200-word dialogue with your classmate. Then, practice your part.



Poster of the 2011 film, adapted from John Le Carré's 1974 novel, *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*

Poster of the 2011 film, adapted from John Le Carré's 1974 novel, *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*. *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy* is set in London in the early 70s, during the Cold War, and follows espionage veteran George Smiley (the man in the poster), as he tries to uncover a Soviet mole within MI6. The suspects' codenames ("Tinker", "Tailor", "Soldier" ...) come from the nursery rhyme "Tinker Tailor".

*Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy* – Trailer

### Portrait of George Blake, 1961



Double agent George Blake celebrates 90th birthday. Watch the video.

### Words you'll need

- **an intelligence** *le renseignement*
- **a decade** *une décennie*
- **notorious** *tristement célèbre*
- **to hand over [sth] to [sb]** *remettre [qqch] à [qqn]*
- **blackmail** *le chantage*
- **to hail** *acclamer*
- **a pipe dream** *une chimère*

### FEED 2 page 134

#### Behind the Mask      How many lives do spies have?

Talk about the complexity of human nature through the portraits of a counter-intelligence agent and a double agent. Learn how to identify their deep motivations as well as the stakes of their missions.

#### Behind the Mask p. 134 How many lives do spies have?

counter-espionage, the journey of a double agent, the Eastern Bloc countries

Vocab : la trahison, les activités d'une taupe, les récompenses, la reconnaissance

- David Cornwell alias John Le Carré is an author of spy novels born in 1931. He taught French and German at Eton before joining MI5 in 1952 and MI6 in 1960.

His writing career began in 1961 with his first novel *Call for the Dead*, which he published in parallel with his work as an agent for MI6. Other novels such as "A Murder of Quality" and "The Spy Who Came in from the Cold" followed but it was not until 1965, when his cover was compromised by double agent Kim Philby, that he became a full-time writer.

- MI6 : Founded in 1906, Military Intelligence Section 6 is a department of the Secret Intelligence Service, the British intelligence service. Unlike MI5 which is responsible for the internal security of the United Kingdom, MI6 is responsible for gathering intelligence outside the country.

The poster shows George Smiley, a counterespionage agent. The caption tells us his mission is to unmask a KGB mole within MI6.

The leather glove represents stealth and the glasses highlight his intelligent and piercingly cold gaze. The codes symbolize classified information.

The red king chess piece shows that the mole is an important and manipulative operative.

George Blake, the subject of the BBC report, started his spy career in MI6 during the Cold War. After his imprisonment in North Korea, he became a communist. In 1953, he went to Berlin and became a double agent who gave classified information to the KGB.

He was found out and sentenced to 42 years in prison. He escaped to Moscow where he built a new life as Georgy Ivanovich.

The two spies both have unconventional roles. Smiley is a fictional counterintelligence agent and Blake was a real KGB mole. Blake betrayed his country, but Smiley helped his.

The poster shows George Smiley, a counterespionage agent. The caption informs us that his mission is to unmask a KGB mole within MI6.

The leather glove could be said to embody stealth and the glasses focus the viewer's attention on his intelligent and piercingly cold gaze.

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George Blake, the subject of the BBC report, first entered into the world of espionage during the Cold War, when he became a spy for MI6. However, following his imprisonment in North Korea, he became a communist. In 1953, he was sent to Berlin by MI6 and became a double agent who handed over classified information to the KGB.

He was unmasked and sentenced to 42 years in prison but managed to escape to Moscow where he built a new life under the name of Georgy Ivanovich.

To conclude, one could argue that both spies have unconventional and opposing roles. Whilst Smiley is a fictional counterintelligence agent, Blake was a real-life KGB mole.

On top of that, Blake betrayed his country but Smiley worked in the interest of his.

**Watch the video and answer these questions:**

**What does Blake think of himself?**

**Who did he spy for?**

**Has he already been arrested? If yes, where?**

**When he fled back to Moscow, how was he greeted?**

**Video 94 page 135**

**“Double agent George Blake celebrates 90th birthday”, BBC News Journalist:** Today he has a Russian home; a Russian wife; even a Russian name: Georgy Ivanovich. But this George Blake, the former British intelligence officer who for nearly a decade spied for the Soviets. To mark his 90th birthday, Russian tv has been given rare access to one of the most notorious double agents of the Cold War.

“I don’t see myself as a hero,” he says, “...or a traitor”.

**Background noise, TV reporter:** Followed by Mr. George Blake...

**Journalist:** Blake had spent 3 years in captivity in North Korea. By the time he returned to Britain in 1953, he was already a committed communist. Posted to Berlin by MI6 he became a KGB mole. He would take the train to the Soviet sector, hand over data on western intelligence operations and drink champagne with his KGB handler. Blake convinced himself what he was doing was morally right.

“I didn’t change side because of blackmail or torture,” he says. “I offered my services voluntarily.”

**Guest:** He probably doesn’t see himself as a traitor a) because he, he believes in these things, b) he won’t be aware of a betrayal because he is... he was brainwashed into believing them. But from the UK point of view, of course, he is a very significant traitor.

**Journalist:** Blake was eventually jailed for 42 years. But in 1966, he escaped from prison and fled to Moscow, where he was hailed as a hero.

George Blake has claimed that he handed the names of hundreds of western agents to Moscow. Blake has shown no remorse and Russia continues to show its gratitude. Offering his birthday wishes, president Putin has said that George Blake’s work deserves the highest recognition and respect.

Over the years Moscow has given him plenty of medals and the rank of colonel. The one thing he is missing is communism.

George Blake betrayed his country for a political system which turned out to be... a pipedream.

Steve Rosenberg, BBC news, Moscow.

## Female Intelligence How are female spies regarded?

When it comes to espionage during the Cold War, women did the same work as men and were treated the same. In the field, they were on equal footing and had similar skills.

Discovery of the life of a couple of KGB agents infiltrated in the United States through the study of a poster, a TV series and its review.

Martha Peterson was like any other Mom. She did the laundry, bought the groceries, and cooked meals for her husband Steve and their two children in the family's home outside of Washington, DC. In 1997, with her two children well into their teenage years, Martha, known as Marti to her friends, thought it was time to reveal part of her secret to Tyler and Lora. They learned mom was a spy for the Central Intelligence Agency.

The world knows about at least one of Marti Peterson's missions as the first female CIA operative in Moscow. Marti described the details in her book "The Widow Spy", published in 2012. It is also chronicled in the International Spy Museum in Washington, DC and the KGB Museum in Moscow. KGB agents captured Marti on July 15, 1977 on a bridge in Moscow, after she had delivered a package for an agent.

Martha did not aspire to be a spy for the CIA growing up in Connecticut. She went to Drew University with the idea of becoming a teacher. But she met John Peterson while in college, and later married the Green Beret. After John returned from Vietnam, he went to work for the CIA and an assignment took the couple to Laos in the early 1970s.

Marti returned to the United States after John's death, and lived with her parents in Florida while recovering from her grief. One night at dinner a good friend suggested Marti look into working for the CIA. She had a Master's Degree, spoke other languages, and had experience working overseas.

Marti went to work for the CIA on July 3rd, 1973. Performing dead drops. Car tosses. Taking covert pictures with miniature cameras. She was learning to be a spy. Marti later interviewed with a man named "Bob", who was going out to be the CIA's Station Chief of Station in Moscow. He was (also) straightforward on how Marti would be treated if the Russians learned she was a spy. "He said 'if they arrest you, and they beat you, it will hurt you as much as if they were beating me, and there's no difference'," Marti recalls.

Marti went to work in Moscow. During the day, she worked as a diplomat in the U.S. Embassy. At night, on weekends and during her lunch breaks, she would report to the CIA station in the same building to do her work as an operative. Marti did the job with the help of experts in the CIA's office. Agents like "Ed", who while pretending to be drunk used sleight of hand to slip a lighter into the open window of a parked car. She worked with "Neal", best explained as the station's version of James Bond's "Q", who devised creative ways of hiding cameras and documents that were passed between agents.

"Marti Peterson: 'The Widow Spy' worked undercover for the CIA in Moscow", Jon Evans, wect.com, 2017



Martha Peterson

- Green Beret *les Bérêts verts (forces spéciales de l'armée de terre américaine)*
- an assignment *une mission*
- to recover *se remettre de [qqch]*
- grief *le chagrin*
- overseas *à l'étranger*
- a dead drop *transmettre un objet en le dissimulant dans une cachette secrète*
- a car toss *une remise d'informations par le biais d'une voiture*
- to pretend *faire semblant*
- a sleight of hand *un tour de passe-passe*
- to slip *glisser [qqch]*
- to devise [sth] *inventer [qqch]*



Poster of Black Widow and Captain America in the movie *The Avengers*



Poster of Black Widow and Captain America in the movie *The Avengers*

Stuff you should know



### Who is Black Widow?

This character is a superheroine created in 1964. Originally, she was a Russian KGB superspy named Natasha Romanova who was trained to have no feelings and be an expert in martial arts, weaponry and psychological manipulation. She was initially Iron Man's adversary but eventually defected to the U.S. by joining the Avengers and working for S.H.I.E.L.D., a fictional intelligence agency.

### **FEED 3 page 137. Female intelligence.**

a superheroine and former KGB agent, the testimony of a real spy from the CIA

Passive voice

VOCAB : the level of education, training, equipment and techniques of spies

- **Green Berets:** The term "Green Berets" refers to a military corps belonging to the Special Forces of the U.S. Army that was created in 1952. The officers are university trained, multilingual and specialized in various fields such as electronic and mechanical engineering, explosives, communication systems, etc.

They were responsible for various infiltration, sabotage and surveillance missions in enemy territory. In 1957, Green Beret units were sent to Southeast Asia to fight and train anti-communist groups in military, civic and medical skills.

- Martha "Marti" Peterson (born May 27, 1945) was 30 years old when she was sent on a counterintelligence mission to Moscow in 1975. She worked there undercover as an administrative officer for the American Embassy. Although she never met him, she was the handler for Aleksandr Dmitrievich Ogorodnik, a Soviet diplomat codenamed TRIGON who was working for the CIA.

The poster shows Black Widow, a superhero from the movie *The Avengers*, who was based on a real KGB spy. She looks self-confident, fearless and pitiless. She is an impressive leading character who will be important in the story. Captain America's patriotic outfit and shield symbolize the military power of America. He is standing in the background, so Black Widow is emphasized.

The article talks about Martha Peterson, the first American female CIA operative in Moscow. She first worked for the CIA in 1973 and was sent on an undercover mission to Moscow. She officially worked as a diplomat in the US Embassy. She got the same CIA training as male spies and had similar tasks to perform.

In 1997, she revealed her secret past to her children. Finally, in 2012, she published a book about her life as a spy. All in all, these two females are equal to male spies and are shown as intelligent, strong and versatile women.

### **1. Describe the two characters. Spot their similarities and differences.**

In the poster, Black Widow, a movie character based on a KGB spy takes centre stage. She is shown as an imposing leading character since she is situated at the forefront of the poster. She is clad in a one-piece leather suit and has a confident and fearless expression on her face, which makes her seem prepared to face any threat that may come her way. Captain America's patriotic outfit and shield clearly embody the military power of America; they both seem ready to fight for the greater good and defend their country.

### **2. Collect clues about the background. What is going on?**

The Empire State building in the background indicates that the action is set in New York City. Evidently this is an action scene, as there are raging explosions behind them, but this doesn't faze them as they continue to march onwards with a determined look in their eyes.

### **3. Now, explain what this poster highlights and what its goal is.**

This poster emphasises the existence and importance of female spies. Through placing Black Widow at the forefront of the poster, and in front of Captain America, a male superhero who usually takes centre stage in the Avengers movies, Marvel are working to represent female spies in Hollywood. Not all spies are men, so why should it be that way in films?

### **Read the article**

### **4. Pick out the places and the time periods. Then, explain the context.**

Martha Peterson was raised in Connecticut. She first went to Laos with her former husband at the start of the 1970s but only started working for the CIA in 1973. She was then sent on an undercover mission to Moscow

#### **■ Look at the pages entitled "Female Intelligence"**

- Identify the different documents.
- Read the questions and the training task.
- Look at the "help" section: this is where you will find the tools you need.

whilst working as an employee at the US Embassy. In 1997, after she had come back to the U.S, she decided to disclose her past life as a spy to her children. In 2012, she published her autobiography and had it exhibited at the spy museums of Washington, DC and Moscow. This article narrates the life of a spy during the Cold War period, a time of political and ideological rivalry between the US and the USSR.

### **5. Identify the name, status and gender of the people mentioned in the text. How are they related to Marti?**

Marti first married John Peterson, a green beret and a CIA officer that she met at college. She then joined the CIA under the command of Bob, her Station Chief in the CIA Station of Moscow. While she was an operative there, she was helped by CIA experts like Ed, another operative and Neal, a spy gadget creator.

When she came back to America, she started a family. When her daughter Lora and her son Tyler were old enough, she decided to tell them about her past life as a spy.

### **6. Choose your role and present the information you have gathered to your classmates.**

You are a screenwriter: focus on Marti's activities and actions.

Marti was the first female CIA operative to be recruited in Moscow. She was trained to tradecraft and so, she could perform dead drops and car tosses. She used miniature cameras to take covert pictures. She officially worked as a diplomat in the U.S Embassy but during her free time, she carried out her assignments as an intelligence officer.

You are an actress: focus on Marti's education and assets.

Marti was raised in Connecticut. She attended Drew University and got a master's degree. Originally, she wished to be a teacher. She spoke foreign languages and had professional experience overseas.



## Train for your BAC

### Is Marti different from male spies? How is she depicted in this article?

When Marti was interviewed by her future station chief, he warned her that if she were caught by the KGB, she would be treated no differently from a male spy. She had received the same CIA training as male spies and so was expected to carry out the same missions. In this article, Martha is put on an equal footing with male spies and is shown as an intelligent, strong and versatile woman.

You are Martha Peterson's publisher and have to write the back-cover blurb of her autobiography (200 words).

#### • On your own at home:

Select the most relevant information on Peterson's biography and write the outline of your back-cover blurb. Then, think of personal remarks you can add.

#### • Together in class:

Use the information you got to write your 200-word back-cover blurb. Then, add your photo. Then, think of personal remarks you can add.

## Feed 2 and Feed 3 pages 134 to 137

Feed 2: **Behind the Mask p. 134 Highlight all the terms linked to spies, espionage, countries and the names of the people involved in it. Talk about this text, make comments.**

The poster shows George Smiley, a counterespionage agent. The caption tells us his mission is to unmask a KGB mole within MI6. The leather glove represents stealth and the glasses highlight his intelligent and piercingly cold gaze. The codes symbolize classified information. The red king chess piece shows that the mole is an important and manipulative operative. George Blake, the subject of the BBC report, started his spy career in MI6 during the Cold War. After his imprisonment in North Korea, he became a communist. In 1953, he went to Berlin and became a double agent who gave classified information to the KGB. He was found out and sentenced to 42 years in prison. He escaped to Moscow where he built a new life as Georgy Ivanovich. The two spies both have unconventional roles. Smiley is a fictional counterintelligence agent and Blake was a real KGB mole. Blake betrayed his country, but Smiley helped his.

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He was unmasked and sentenced to 42 years in prison but managed to escape to Moscow where he built a new life under the name of Georgy Ivanovich. To conclude, one could argue that both spies have unconventional and opposing roles. Whilst Smiley is a fictional counterintelligence agent, Blake was a real-life KGB mole.

On top of that, Blake betrayed his country but Smiley worked in the interest of his.



## Video 94 page 135 "Double agent George Blake ". Watch the video and answer these questions:

What does Blake think of himself? Who did he spy for? Has he already been arrested? If yes, where? When he fled back to Moscow, how was he greeted?

## **FEED 3 page 137. Female intelligence.**

- **Green Berets:** The term "Green Berets" refers to a military corps belonging to the Special Forces of the U.S. Army that was created in 1952. The officers are university trained, multilingual and specialized in various fields such as electronic and mechanical engineering, explosives, communication systems, etc.

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In 1997, she revealed her secret past to her children. Finally, in 2012, she published a book about her life as a spy. All in all, these two females are equal to male spies and are shown as intelligent, strong and versatile women.

**Answer these questions orally in groups and take a few notes.**

1. Describe the two characters. Spot their similarities and differences.
2. Collect clues about the background. What is going on?
3. Now, explain what this poster highlights and what its goal is.
4. Pick out the places and the time periods. Then, explain the context.
5. Identify the name, status and gender of the people mentioned in the text. How are they related to Marti?
6. Choose your role and present the information you have gathered to your classmates.

**SHARE: From Russia with loath. Page 138**

The show makes the infiltration of the United States look a lot scarier than it was.

Poster of the spy TV series, *The Americans*, Season 1

When the spy drama "The Americans" debuted in 2013, critics pointed to the show's success as a sign that the Cold War was long over. Reviewers described it as an evocative Cold War thriller, rich in period detail, that portrayed KGB sleeper agents in a surprisingly sympathetic light. NYU professor Eliot Borenstein wrote, "It's hard to figure out which of its triumphs is the most unlikely: that it has millions of Americans rooting for KGB agents to outsmart our country every week, or that the FX network has produced a critical darling that is not entirely awash in testosterone."

The story told by "The Americans" is surprisingly straightforward. Matthew Rhys and Keri Russell play KGB agents under deep cover in the United States in the 1980s, working as travel agents in Washington's Virginia suburbs under the names Philip and Elizabeth Jennings. They speak with American accents, are raising an all-American family and seem to live a normal life. Behind the scenes, however, they embark on dangerous KGB missions — hunting defectors, planting bugs in sensitive locations, assassinating enemies of the Soviet Union and looking out for the USSR's interests, often clad in elaborate wigs and disguises.

"The Americans" builds a sense of credibility by using authentic period details. One of the show's creators, Joe Weisberg, is a former CIA officer who taught the cast surveillance techniques and needs to get approval from the CIA for the show's scripts to make sure they don't accidentally reveal American intelligence secrets. The show's costume designers do their best to reproduce the fashion of the 1980s, and its scripts are littered with references to 1980s political figures and Cold War pop culture.

Ironically, this KGB mythology also served the purposes of the American right, which emphasized that the United States and the U.S.S.R. were engaged in an irreconcilable life-or-death struggle and that Communist agents threatened the American system from within.



Season 1 features a former civil rights activist who also collaborated with the KGB. These characters bolster the idea that anyone on the right or the left could be a KGB mole.

The show's conspiratorial worldview can be partly explained by its genre. After all, it would be hard to construct a riveting spy thriller around the theft of office software at an insurance company, even if that better accords with reality. Spy dramas always highlight hidden conspiracies and high-stakes intrigue, with a smattering of assassinations and seductions for good measure.

But “The Americans” further ingrains a Cold War mythology defined by narratives about the subversive threat of communism and a conservative need to emphasize American military strength. The real Cold War, dangerous as it was, featured fewer hidden enemies and a less daunting KGB than many Americans feared.

As gripping as it can be, it's at best debatable whether “The Americans” is “prescient” or “politically relevant.” Contemporary American democracy faces an array of external and internal threats, but the best way to understand Putin's Russia is to examine it on its own terms — not to view it through the lens of Cold War mythology and 1980s spy thrillers.

by Edward Cohn, *The Washington Post*, 2018

*Edward Cohn is a professor of history at Grinnell College.*

*His current research deals with the KGB in the Baltic republics.*

- **to figure out** *comprendre [qqch]*
- **to root for [sb/sth]** *soutenir [qqn/qqch]*
- **to outsmart [sb]** *duper [qqn]*
- **to be awash in** *être inondé(e) de*
- **a defector** *un(e) transfuge*
- **a bug** *un micro*
- **clad in [sth]** *vêtu(e) de [qqch]*
- **to be littered with [sth]** *être truffé(e) de [qqch]*
- **to bolster** *soutenir*
- **riveting** *captivant(e)*
- **high stakes** *des enjeux importants*
- **a smattering** *une petite quantité*
- **to ingrain [sth] in [sb]** *insinuer [qqch] en [qqn]*
- **daunting** *intimidant(e)*
- **prescient** *visionnaire*
- **an array** *un assortiment*

KGB agents infiltrated in the United States in the 1980s

Indirect speech

symbols, activities and techniques of espionage, infiltration, disguise, danger, intrigue, critical reception

- The Pledge of Allegiance of the U.S.: This pledge was composed during the Civil War and adopted by Congress in 1942. With their right hand on their heart, Americans pledge allegiance to the U.S. flag, reinforcing the spirit of patriotism during ceremonies.

- The U.S. Capitol: Located in Washington, D.C., this building is the seat of the U.S. Congress, which consists of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

- The Spasskaya Tower: The Spasskaya Tower (the Saviour Tower) is the main tower of the Kremlin. It is known for its imposing clock and its breathtaking view of Red Square.

- Ronald Reagan (1911-2004): 40th president of the United States, he was particularly famous for his oratory skills and his visceral anti-communism. To reduce the influence of communism in the world, he introduced political strategies, the Reagan Doctrine, which contributed in large part to the fall of this regime.

**From Russia with Loath p. 138**

The infiltration of KGB agents in the United States.

The poster for 'The Americans' tells us about the show. The title tells us the action is in America, and the tagline says that it takes place during the Cold War. This information, paired with the combination of Russian and American cultural symbols, shows that these two countries will be important. The two spies look like they are pledging allegiance to America with their facial expressions and stance, but they are holding guns. This makes us question their dedication. They are double agents, working undercover for the KGB in the USA. The series demonstrates the culture of this period but exaggerates historical facts to draw the audience's attention.

He says that viewers of this series won't know everything about modern Russia after watching it. To do this, they must study today's media, rather than series set in the 80s.

Just like *The Man from U.N.C.L.E.*, this show is unrealistic. Both are appealing because they rely on spy stereotypes and many exaggerated action scenes.

The stories of George Smiley and George Blake depict moles like the moles in 'The Americans'. However, this TV show tells the story from the moles' perspective, so the audience likes them, even though they are working against America. Even if their actions are bad, we want them to win.

The poster for 'The Americans' reveals several details about the show. For instance, the title tells us the show is set in America, and the tagline lets us know that it takes place during the Cold War. This information, paired with the combination of Russian and American cultural symbols or monuments, like the Spasskaya Tower and the American flag, highlights that these two countries will be central to the narrative. The two spies appear to be pledging allegiance to America with their facial expressions and stance, but they are holding guns, which makes us question their dedication. They are double agents, working undercover for the KGB in the USA.

The author of the review reports that the series faithfully depicts the culture of this period. However, he also notes the series exaggeration of historical facts to make the series more exciting and attract more viewers.

He concludes by explaining that viewers of this series shouldn't take the series as a reliable source for information concerning modern Russia. Indeed, to understand Putin's Russia one must study today's media, rather than that which is set in the 80s.

Just like *The Man from U.N.C.L.E.*, this show is unrealistic. Their appeal is based upon their reliance on spy stereotypes and exaggerated action scenes. The other stories of this chapter, like the fictional adventures of George Smiley, or the true story of George Blake, depict moles like those in 'The Americans'. However, this TV show tells the story from the moles' perspective, so the audience ends up sympathizing with them, even though they are working *against* America. Even if their actions are morally questionable, we find ourselves rooting for them.

### **1. Focus on the poster and its composition. Spot the contrasting elements. What is this series about and when is it set?**

I think this series is based on spies in America during the Cold War. The poster's text mentions the Cold War and the series is called 'The Americans'... But also, the two characters at the forefront of the poster look very serious and are holding guns, which makes me think they are spies, or perhaps detectives. They have a solemn air about them and are making the symbol of allegiance to the American Flag with their guns instead of their right hands, which might imply their allegiance is false, or cannot be trusted.

The Spasskaya Tower stands in sharp contrast with American symbols such as the Capitol, the Star-Spangled Banner and President Reagan. The pattern on the man's tie combines the Communist hammer and sickle and American flag. The embossed font of 'The Americans' is tinged with the red colour of communism. All of this mixing of the two nation's symbols makes me think that the loyalties of the two characters are going to be split across the two countries. They might be double agents.

### **2. Imagine the plot.**

The series may deal with the professional and private life of a couple of undercover KGB spies who have infiltrated the U.S.

### **Get your facts rights**

### **3. What kind of text is it? Who is the author and what is it about?**

This text is a film review written by Edward Cohn, a history professor. It discusses 'The Americans' a spy drama TV series.

### **4. Read the text. Were your hypothesis about the plot right?**

I was correct, since the text explains that this series is all about the story of a couple of KGB sleeper agents and their family in the 1980s. They speak with American accents and live 'the American Dream' by day, but by night they spend their time hunting down enemies of the Soviet state and getting information on their enemies.



## ■ Look at the pages entitled “From Russia with Loath”

- Identify the different documents.
- Read the questions and the training task.
- Look at the “help” section: this is where you will find the tools you need.

### 5. Find the key ideas and summarize each paragraph in one sentence. Say which paragraphs correspond to the introduction, body and conclusion.

Paragraph 1 (introduction) introduces the TV series as a Cold War spy thriller broadcast by the FX Network which started in 2013 and attracted a great number of American viewers.

Paragraph 2 (body) explains that the main characters live like authentic American citizens under the cover of travel agents and disguise themselves so that they can carry out dangerous spy missions in secret.

Paragraph 3 (body) reports that the show is realistic because it draws on authentic spy techniques as well as the actual history and culture of the Cold War period.

Paragraph 4 (body) describes how American right wingers use the arguments of this series to claim that the US and Russia are and always will be sworn enemies.

Paragraph 5 (body) states that any American, whatever his/her political affiliation, could be a KGB mole.

Paragraph 6 (body) points out that the genre of ‘spy drama’ does tend to overexaggerate so as to appeal to a wider audience. If spy dramas showed us what actual spies did, they probably wouldn’t be so interesting.

Paragraph 7 (body) explains that the show does exaggerate a little – there weren’t so many hidden enemies in the real Cold War.

In the last paragraph (conclusion), the author concludes by saying that whilst the show is captivating, it isn’t the best way to understand modern Russia as lots has changed since the Cold War.

#### Feed Back!

**Think back to *The Man from U.N.C.L.E.*. What similar elements are used to grab the viewer’s attention in *The***

*Americans*? Explain if both faithfully imitate reality.

‘The Americans’ focuses on a couple of KGB spies’ who pretend to be Americans so that they can carry out undercover missions for the Russians. The setting, the scripts and costumes reflect the 1980s cultural background credibly, but the storylines are slightly exaggerated, not necessarily reflecting reality during the Cold War.

This film uses dramatic action scenes, stereotypical spy characters and settings which look like old postcards of Berlin and Rome to captivate audiences. It is not the best imitation of reality, as it exaggerates and embellishes reality.

**Remember the clues you have gathered about the protagonist of *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy* and *George Blake*.**

**In what ways does ‘The Americans’ also debunk the myth of the blameless hero? How tempting is it to side with these characters?**

The KGB has planted indistinguishable Soviet agents on US soil. The behavior of the protagonists could be considered morally wrong since they benefit from the American system, living and working under it, but are secretly looking to harm it.

Since the story is told from the KGB spies’ perspective, the audience sympathizes with them, as they get to know the characters and come to root for them.

Both sources are concerned with ‘the enemy within.’ George Blake was an undercover double agent, and in *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy*, George Smiley works undercover to find out who inside MI6 is a mole.

It is tempting to side with people who have risked their lives for the good of their country, even if that means they have worked against our own. For example, for the British, Blake is a dishonourable traitor, but for the Russians, he is a hero. It all depends which perspective the story is told from.

**Report information common to *Black Widow* and *Marti Peterson*. To what extent does Elizabeth Jennings resemble**

**them? Do you find these real and fictional spies stereotypical?**

In the poster, both members of the Jennings couple are standing on the same level with the same solemn air, gesture, and gun, which suggests there is no hierarchy between them, and that they are equals.

In the series, both of them work under the cover of travel agents and complete risky missions, with the same roles and responsibilities. Elizabeth is not presented as less important or capable because of her gender.

Her gender doesn’t come into the question because her excellent spy skills are the only thing that matters.

They are both portrayed as two skilful and fearless female spies who have completed tough

missions and were trained to perform the same tasks as their male counterparts like taking covert photos and assassinating enemies of the state.

It would seem that these female spies are granted the same respect by secret organizations like MI6, since they are judged on their ability to carry out secret missions, and their gender doesn't come into the question.