



2009

Spy!

Pat Frade

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Myers, Anna. *Spy!* Walker & Co, 2008. ISBN 9780802797421. \$16.99. 224 p.

Reviewer: Pat Frade

Reading Level: Intermediate, Young adult

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Historical fiction;

Subject: Hale, Nathan, 1755-1776--Juvenile fiction; United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783--Juvenile fiction; Spies--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

"I'm a spy, Jonah, a spy for General George Washington." *Spy* is a fictional account of Nathan Hale, a young schoolmaster in Connecticut who plays a role in the Revolutionary War. He wants to make a difference in the lives of his young scholars, one of whom is the fictional Jonah Hawkins. Jonah is an orphan who was taken in by Nathan's cousin, Samuel Hale. Samuel is loyal to the King, while Nathan is unsure where his loyalties lie. As the tensions escalate between the British and the Americans, Nathan decides to support the Americans and enlists in the army. When George Washington asks for a volunteer to be a spy, Nathan accepts the assignment. Meanwhile, Samuel Hale takes his family to New York City to escape the patriots' persecutions. Nathan and Jonah happen to meet one day, and Nathan confides his assignment to Jonah. Jonah is disturbed by the news and tells Mr. Samuel. A few days later, Nathan is arrested and hung. Jonah watches the hanging, and decides to right the wrong by joining Washington's Army. This is the American Revolution told from two points of view--that of Nathan Hale, who loved teaching his students, and that of Jonah Hawkins, who learns how to make his own choices during a turbulent time in history.

This is a well-written novel about choices and loyalty. The story begins with the death of Nathan Hales, and then it goes back in time three years. This is a good book to supplement any study of the American Revolution.

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