



*Episode title: Melina, the Spy, and the Secret Code*

*Episode launch date: June 3*

*Program name: Spy Time – Passing Secret Messages*

*Program Magician: Kimberly Behan*

### *Activity Overview*

In this activity we will listen to a portion of the BPL podcast [Page Flippers Take on the World](#) and learn how to hide a secret message inside an egg!

### *Materials Needed*

- Speaker, and capacity to play section of *Page Flippers*
- small pin
- uncooked egg
- small bowl/cup
- Pen/pencil
- paper towels
- small strip of paper no bigger than 1 by 2 inches
- either egg cartons or plastic baggies.

### *Setup*

Gather enough eggs for students participating in program. Place down paper towels to use as a placemat and put egg and all other materials on it as well. Have a spare paper towel per participant for them to wipe hands on but make sure to also have access for participants to go wash hands during the activity.

### *Podcast Clip*

- Find and charge (if necessary) your speaker and the device from which you'll play the **Page Flippers** clip – this can be played at any point during the program, while kids are engaged with hollowing out their eggs or writing their secret messages.
- The clip will appear as a “bonus” episode on the podcast feed (you can find it on [Spotify](#), [Apple Podcasts](#), [Stitcher](#), [RadioPublic](#), [Google Podcasts](#), etc.)
- Clip summary: Librarians Sheneatha and Rachel are trying to get the Magical Mephisto to perform for Summer Reading, but he keeps disappearing! They find a note from him written in secret code, and Page Flipper Melina saves the day by cracking the numbers to read the message from the elusive Mephisto.

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### Process

Adapted from [Code Cracking for Kids: Secret Communications Throughout History](#) by Jean Daigneau

1. With adult supervision, insert a pin into one end of raw egg to make a pin sized hole.
2. Turn egg over and insert pin into other end of egg. Tap lightly around the pin hole until it's the size of a capital O; then shake the egg carefully a couple of times.
3. Hold egg over the bowl with the O shaped hole pointing down.
4. Gently blow into pin hole on top until both egg white and yolk come out the other end. BE CAREFUL TO NOT GET ANY RAW EGG IN YOUR MOUTH WHEN BLOWING. If the egg isn't coming out, turn egg over to tap light next to the O shaped hole and make it slightly bigger.
5. Continue carefully blowing all egg out of the shell until the shell is empty.
6. Once egg is empty, run water in slow stream from a faucet and hold the end of the egg with the larger hole under neath the stream until the shell is half full.
7. Lightly hold your finger on each hole and shake several times.
8. Blow water out until shell is empty.
9. Let shell dry completely and be SURE to wash your hands.
10. As shell is drying, write a message on the small strip of paper.
11. When done writing, roll the paper as tightly as possible beginning with the wide end.
12. Check to see if egg is dry completely by shaking it and listening for water. If there is still water, blow into it to dry it out.
13. Once egg is dry, insert the rolled up message into the larger hole.
14. Put the hollowed egg into a carton of normal eggs and deliver to recipient. (Make sure the larger hole is faced down.) [If not enough egg cartons are available per participant, put egg in plastic baggy.

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### Resources

- Hand out *Page Flipper* postcards so families can listen at home.
- Share this book list with families, all about architecture and engineering! You can even create book bundles from this list. <https://www.bklynlibrary.org/search?booklist=571563>

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### Scaling Program

- For younger kids, hollow eggs out ahead of time. Pre-writers encourage drawing.
- For older kids, challenge them look up a way to write in code and write their message in a coded way.