

DOUBLE IDENTITY

Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Award Nominee 2008 Grades 6-8

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Double Identity by Margaret P. Haddix. Simon & Schuster, 2005. 224 pages.

Summary

Bethany is a twelve-year old girl who is whisked away in the middle of the night by her parents. She is taken to live with an aunt she never knew existed. Bethany's thirteenth birthday is only a few days away, and she is in store for more than a cake with thirteen candles on it. Bethany's confusion and alarm increase when she attempts to contact her parents. She discovers that their cell phones are out of service. She notices strange things, like Aunt Myrlie introducing her as a visitor instead of her niece. Then a package containing four different birth certificates arrives and a man comes looking for her parents. Bethany knows that she must discover the truth about her past, and she begins an investigation. She finally learns that she is the clone of her sister, Elizabeth, who was killed in an automobile accident twenty years earlier.

Read an excerpt: <http://www.simonsays.com/content/book.cfm?tab=1&pid=511241&agid=2>

Awards and "Best Book" Lists

ALA Quick Picks Nominee

Author's Biography

Margaret Haddix was born in 1964 in Washington Court House, Ohio and spent her childhood on a farm. She graduated from Miami University of Ohio in 1986 with a B.A. degree in creative writing and journalism. She has worked as a newspaper reporter, a community college instructor, and a freelance writer. She is an author of both teen and adult futuristic science fiction, including the Shadow Children series. She currently lives in Columbus, Ohio with her husband and their two children.

<http://www.bookhive.org>

<http://library.thinkquest.org/J0110073/Author.html>

Other Titles by Margaret Haddix

The Shadow Children Series:

Among the Hidden

Among the Imposters

Among the Betrayed

Among the Barons

Among the Enemy

Among the Free

Running Out of Time

Turnabout

Because of Anya

The House on the Gulf

Escape from Memory

Related Titles

Double Identity's main character Bethany learns many secrets about her life before her thirteenth birthday. She has many questions that nobody wants to answer. The book also deals with family relationships and with the controversial issue of cloning.

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle.

The House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer.

The Duplicate by William Sleator.

Dead Girls Don't Write Letters by Gail Giles.

The Face on the Milk Carton by Caroline Cooney.

Classroom Connections

The issues/themes in *Double Identity* are cloning (which relates to DNA), emotions, family, adventures/thrills and secrets. *Double Identity* is a great book to integrate into the areas of Social Studies, Science and Language Arts.

- **Social Studies:** Students can use map skills to trace the route that Bethany takes to get to her estranged aunt's house from her hometown on a standard United States map.
- **Science**
 - Have students make their own thumbprints and discuss how each person's thumbprint is different. In addition to prints, have the students write about what makes them different from everyone else and how being different can be good.
 - Have a debate about the moral and ethical issues of cloning. Divide the class into two groups. Each group will be assigned either the pro or con of cloning. Students will research cloning and make an argument based on that research.
 - Show a picture of Dolly (the sheep that was cloned) and have the students research how she is doing and if any other animals have been cloned.
 - Have students research DNA and its implications and create a PowerPoint presentation.
- **Language Arts:** Have students write a letter to Bethany from her parents explaining why they cloned her sister and how it has or has not been a good idea.
- **Art: What I Look Like if I Was Cloned?** Students will be given five minutes to observe themselves in a mirror. After five minutes, students will draw their ideal clone based on their features they observed in the mirror. Students should not draw themselves but someone who resembles them strongly with some variations in features. This activity should take no longer than thirty minutes to complete. It is beneficial for the teacher to have a model of this activity for students to observe the difference between drawing themselves and their clone!
- **Operation Secret:** Teacher will provide students with a secret that only the teacher and student that receives the secret knows. In pairs, students will create five questions to ask their partners that will enable them to learn their partner's secret. Students are only allowed to ask a maximum of five questions to obtain the secret. No hints can be given to the person who is trying to decode the secret. At the end of the operation students create their own secrets and obtain new partners. The same rules apply to creating the questions as in the teacher provided secret activity.

Lesson Plans

Scholastic Instructor: We Are Family Lesson Plan Grades 4-8

<http://content.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=3662>

This lesson plan introduces students to the different types of family that exists in society today. This lesson includes activities that allow students to explore their families and what defines their families.

Family Tree Lesson Plan Grades 5-12

<http://www.lessonplanspage.com/SSFAMILYTREE512.htm>

Students are able to trace their family roots by creating a family tree.

Science Fiction Lesson Plan Grades 7-9

<http://www.lessonplanspage.com/LAIntroToScienceFiction79.htm>

This lesson introduces students to science fiction.

Poetry Lesson Plan Grades 6-8

<http://www.lessonplanspage.com/LAArtCICreatingAPoetryNotebook68.htm>

Students can create a poem using quotes from the novel as topics or titles for their independently created poems. When the poems are completed they can be compiled in a book.

Web Sites

Whose Genes? Tiki's Guide to Genetic Engineering

<http://tiki.oneworld.net/penguin/genetics/home.html>

Excellent web site that has links to DNA and genetic engineering.

Kid's Wings/Double Identity

<http://suzyred.com/2007doubleidentity.html>

Brief review of the book and links to DNA and genetics.

Human Genome Project Foundation Cloning Fact Sheet

http://www.ornl.gov/sci/techresources/Human_Genome/else/cloning.shtml

This site is part of the Human Genome Program of the US Department of Energy Office of Science. It includes information about cloning and links to other sites.

Building a Model DNA

<http://school.discovery.com/lessonplans/programs/modeldna/>

Includes directions for making a model of the DNA molecule, plus information and links related to DNA.

Discovery School

www.Discoveryschool.com

You can search this site for lesson plans about cloning and DNA.

Howstuffworks/ How Cloning Works

www.howstuffworks.com/cloning.htm

This site explains the process of cloning and how it can be used to save endangered species. It shows the image of Noah (an endangered deer that was cloned).

Scholastic:Science Explorations

WebQuest: What's the big deal about DNA?

<http://content.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=7659>

Students can complete a WebQuest Scavenger hunt to find out the importance of DNA. The activity comes with worksheets that coincide with the websites listed for the scavenger hunt.

Scholastic - New York Times Upfront: It's All in the DNA

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/scholasticnews/indepth/upfront/features/index.asp?article=f1009b>

This article provides background information about DNA and the importance of understanding your DNA.

Louisiana Department of Education

<http://www.doe.state.la.us/ldc/saa/1819.html>

This website provides the grade level expectations for the state of Louisiana.

The Book Hive

<http://www.bookhive.org>

This website is a great way to find out about well-known books and authors.

Kids Reads

<http://www.kidsreads.com/reviews/0689873743.asp>

This exceptional kid-friendly website has a review and excerpt of the book and a biography about the author.

Think Quest

<http://library.thinkquest.org/J0113300/biohome.html>

Information about Margaret Haddix and her works.

Info Please

<http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

This website is a great place to get state maps as well as the map of the United States.