



***DOUBLE***  
by Jenny Valentine

**Louisiana Young Readers' Choice 2015 Nominee  
Grades 6-8**

*Submitted by Debbie Henson, Librarian  
Live Oak Middle School, Watson, LA*

**Title:** *Double* (originally published in the UK as *The Double Life of Cassiel Roadnight*)  
**Author:** Jenny Valentine  
**Publisher:** Disney-Hyperion Press  
**Pages:** 256

**SUMMARY**

Chap is a 16 year old boy living on the streets of London when he is mistaken for a missing boy named Cassiel. Chap takes the opportunity to assume Cassiel's identity to escape a life of nothing, only to find out he's in deeper than he thinks. There are unanswered questions about Cassiel's disappearance, and the idyllic life he thought he would have is becoming unraveled. Cassiel's sister, Edie, and mother, Helen, seem to be cared for by Cassiel's brother, Frank. However, when he meets a former friend, Floyd, more questions that are intriguing and horrifying come to the surface regarding Cassiel's disappearance. Valentine slowly develops the plot and the backstory of Chap's life in a suspenseful build that delivers a surprise twist.

**AUTHOR'S BIOGRAPHY**

Jenny Valentine is a British children's writer. She studied English literature at Goldsmith's College. She lives in Hay on Wye, Wales, and runs a health food store with her husband. Her first novel *Me, the Missing, and the Dead* was published under the title *Finding Violet Park* and won the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize in the UK.

Biographical information taken from HarperCollins Publishers at [http://www.harpercollins.com/authors/30077/Jenny\\_Valentine/index.aspx](http://www.harpercollins.com/authors/30077/Jenny_Valentine/index.aspx), accessed March 3, 2014 and the International Literature Festival of Berlin at <http://www.literaturfestival.com/participants/authors/2011/jenny-valentine>, accessed March 3, 2014.



## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Author's publisher website <http://www.harpercollins.co.uk/authors/7187/jenny-valentine>

Book Trailer [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bicn\\_jEWk4g](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bicn_jEWk4g)

## **OTHER TITLES BY AUTHOR**

*The Ant Colony* (2009)

*Broken Soup*. (2009)

*Double*. (2011)

*Finding Violet Park*. (2008)

retitled *Me, the Missing, and the Dead* (2008)

## **RELATED TITLES** (Students may also enjoy these titles)

*Deep and Dark and Dangerous* by Mary Downing Hahn

*Divergent* by Veronica Roth

*Double Identity* by Margaret Peterson Haddix

*The Face on the Milk Carton* by Caroline Cooney

*Stranger With My Face* by Lois Duncan

## **CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS**

### **Art:**

Create a new book cover for the novel incorporating the aspect of the twins, or "doubles," as a main theme. Post the book covers in the school, and/or have a contest for the best book cover.

### **Science:**

- 7th grade: As part of life science, discuss the DNA of twins, and identical vs. fraternal twins.
- Have students make their own thumbprint and discuss how each person's thumbprint is different.

### **Language Arts:**

Have students create a Venn diagram of Chap and Cassiel as students read the book. Write down descriptions of each on the Venn diagram and compare diagrams upon completion of the novel.

### **Vocabulary:**

Addictive  
Gesture  
Vigilant  
Reclusive  
Paranoid  
Lunatic  
Evidence  
Remorse  
Beneficial  
Predatory  
Procession

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why did Chap pretend to be Cassiel Roadknight?
2. Even though they looked alike on the outside, what were some of the differences between Chap and Cassiel?
3. Chap's Grandad would have told Chap that wishing for a normal family was a bad idea because every family had problems. What are some of the problems that Cassiel's family has?
4. What "proof" did Floyd have that Cassiel was dead?
5. Why did Chap say he was his grandpa's terrible secret?
6. If you could choose one of the four possible things Chap could do once he found out Frank murdered Cassiel, which would you choose?
  - a. Go to Frank and tell him what Floyd knows and see what happens.
  - b. Keep Frank's secret so he will keep Chap's secret and live together peacefully.
  - c. Take the money and leave them all and live somewhere else as a rich man.
  - d. Get Frank back by punishing him for killing Cassiel.
7. Why did Floyd tell Chap to ask Frank about Mr. Artemis?
8. What secret did Cassiel's mother Helen reveal that shocked Chap?
9. What do you think Damiel (Chap) learned about keeping secrets?
10. Did you think the Roadknights lives will be very different from now on and how so?

## RELATED WEBSITES

### **Author interview**

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=baXT2\\_sdhgk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=baXT2_sdhgk)

part 2 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dBIKb8nh6w0>

A Q&A session with Jenny Valentine on the YouTube channel of HarperCollins Children's Books.

### ***The Prince and the Pauper* by Mark Twain**

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/1837/1837-h/1837-h.htm>

An example of the long history of mistaken identity stories.