



Photo © Nestlin S. Cabra Photography

the SPY NEXT DOOR



Q&A with author Jay Cooper

1. What's the title of your new book?

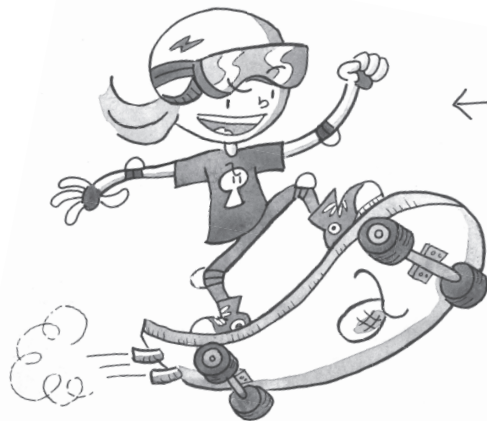
The Spy Next Door, Book 1: MUTANT RAT ATTACK!



← This is the mutant rat!

2. Describe your book.

A boring, regular 3rd-grader (Dexter Drabner) accidentally winds up at the center of an evil conspiracy. In order to save his school, he has to team up with a robotic skateboard and join a super secret spy organization.

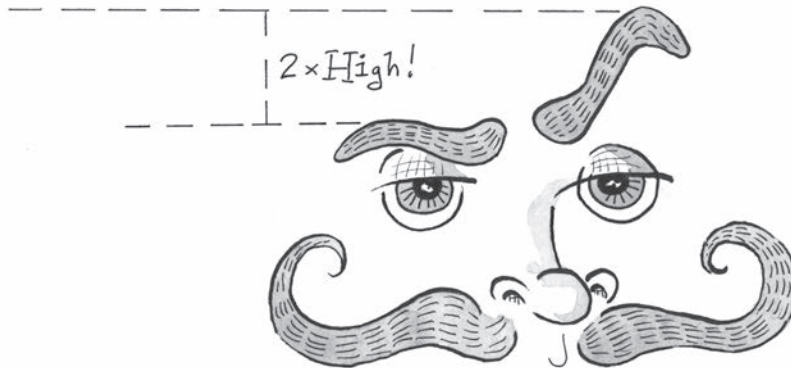


← Dexter Drabner (Agent SK8)

← B.O.A.R.D. (Battery Operated Artificial Reasoning Device!)

3. What's your greatest spy skill?

I've always been really good at mimicking voices and doing impressions. I can also do that super cool trick where one eyebrow goes up much higher than the other (lots of spies can do this).



4. Who's your favorite character in the book?

Definitely Big K. She's Agent SK8's handler and a superspy boss. She's really tough and sort of based on my older sister, Teresa, who introduced me to comic books, roleplaying games, Doctor Who, fantasy, and science fiction!



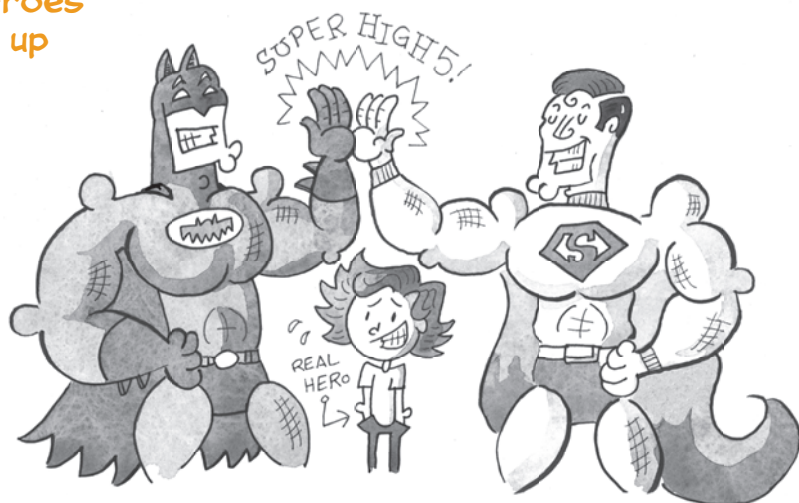
5. If you could have any spy gadget, what would it be?

A FLYING **VESPA**, of course!



6. What's the message you'd like to send kids with your book?

Not every hero is super-real heroes are everyday people who stand up for the little guy. (Even if they happen to be the little guy!)



7. What was your favorite childhood book?

I have so many favorites. But to be honest, the ones closest to my heart are comics. I've been collecting Avengers comic books since I was 7 years old. I have almost all of them. (No, really!)

Avengers #1 (1963!)
I actually own this!!!



Hawkeye has always been my favorite superhero!

8. If you weren't an author/illustrator, what would you be?

Exactly what I already am! I create artwork for Broadway shows in New York City. I see my artwork every day-on billboards, on taxis, in newspapers, and in subways. I love art and I love theater-it's fun to work on both!

