CLASSIFIED FILE 2

COORDINATE CODEX

To the untrained eye, a message disguised using the Coordinate Codex will look like a list of random numbers. The codex works by replacing each letter of a secret message with a number referring to the same letter in a particular book.

ENCODING

1. Choose a book and find a page without any headings. Write down the page number followed by a full stop, eg: **141.**

2. Find a word containing the first letter of your message and count down the lines of text from the top until you reach the line the word is on. Write down the number of lines followed by a full stop: **141.08.**

3. Count along the words on this line until you reach your chosen word. Write down the number of words followed by a full stop: **141.08.01.**

4. Finally, count the letters in the word until you reach the first letter of your message. Write down the number that you counted. **141.08.01.05**

5. These coordinates should be read as ‘page 141, line 8, word 1, letter 5’. Make a set of coordinates for every letter in your message.

DECODING

Find out from the sender which book to use to crack the code.
This example uses Conspiracy 365: January CODE BLACK.
Each set of coordinates points to a page, line, word and letter in the book. For example, the coordinates 117.13.02.06 should be read as page 117, line 13, word 2, letter 6.
Open the book to page 117 and count down the number of lines from the top until you reach line 13.
Find word 2 on this line—'specialists'. In this word, letter 6 is 'a'.

Practise using the above steps for the following set of coordinates from *Conspiracy 365 Code Black: January*.

117.12.03.02 → A
109.02.01.02 →
159.07.05.01 →
012.23.03.11 →
133.20.07.03 →

How did you go? See below for the answer*.

EXTRA

For longer messages, use a combination of references to single letters and whole words. To refer to a whole word though, you'll have to find it in your chosen book. You could also think of ways to disguise the name of the book you used, or use several different books!

*Answer: angel

SCHOLASTIC