

TEACHERS' NOTES for *Lenny's Book of Everything* by Karen Foxlee

to accompany the IDTL Network Book Week publication 2019

Using a simplified version of the Big 6 strategy for solving information problems, this activity focuses upon the use of one specified source of information. The process is important and needs to be taught many times to ensure students are able to both understand the steps and internalize the process.

Lenny's Book of Everything describes a number of topics students can research, that Lenny and Davey read about.

- A aardvark, aardwolf, albatross, African civet, abominable snowman, abscess, abstract art, John Adams (2), acne, amoeba, adding machines, adenoids, ancient civilizations, Aegean, ants
- B barracuda, bagpipes, bridges, batteries, bees, baseball, hot air balloon, bat, bacteria, badger, baobab tree, birds, beetles, bathysphere, beetroot, Beirut, Belgium, Bell, Alexander Graham Bellini, Vincenzo, Bering Sea Controversy, Beethoven
- C cabbage, undersea cables, curiosities, cackling goose, Cairo, calculating machines, camera, California, chewing gum, clothing, clock, cloud, Canada
- D dairy farm, Dallas, Dakotas, dolls, deafness, dancing, daffodil, Delaware, dog, daddy-long-legs, dams, dressmaking, David (& Goliath), Dearborn, Henry, death, death adder, Denmark
- E emerald python, electric eels, eclipses, eagle, eggs, Egypt, Eiffel Tower, electricity, elephants, elevators, ear, ecology, economics, education, embalming, Earth, El Salvador, enamels, Etruscans, Europe
- F falcon, falconry, flea, firefly, flying ants, feathers, fathers, firemen, fans, Millard Fillmore, law of falling bodies,
- H hamster, Hawaii, President Harding, President Harrison (2), halibut, heart, halos, harp, horsehair snake, hawk, Hungary
- I igneous rock, impala, insects, Iceland, Ireland, Iowa, immunity, irony, Indianapolis, inventions, iambic meter, ivory
- J jackal, jacaranda, jack rabbit, Chinese jade, Japan, jellyfish, Thomas Jefferson, Jerusalem
- K katydid, Kansas, Kentucky, king snakes, kingbird, king crab, kite, Kyzylkum
- L ladybug, lacewing, larder beetle, leafwing, leatherback, family Lampyridae, log cabin, larvae

M Macau, metabolism, metal, mythology, Mackenzie River, Macedonia, Machu Pichu, magma, Manitoba, Mary Celeste, magic, Middle Ages, medicine, machines, Madrid, mammoth, magnifying glass, magnet, mapmaking (cartography) Maine, Massachusetts, Maryland, Montana, mantis, midges, millipede, music, moon

N nail, Naples, Nantucket, Napoleon's empire, National park, Navy, Navy warships, Nebraska, New Brunswick, New York, New Jersey, New Mexico, New Guinea, New Orleans, Newfoundland

O Annie Oakley, oats, oatmeal, osprey, ocean, onion, owl, office work, opal

P peregrine falcon, Puerto Rico, pearls, pelicans, passenger pigeon, Panama Canal, Satchel Paige

Q quicksand, quintillion, Queensland, quasar, queen, quaking aspen, quartz, quilting

R raven, Renaissance, Rhode Island, radio, radar, radiation, rocket ships, raptor

S Saturn, smoke signals, snowflakes, Shakespeare, snake-charming, scorpions, shell, ship, shipping, salmon, Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Souths including South America, sand, Sahara

T tumour, trade winds, tides, Mark Twain, tarantula, tweed, Tutankhamen

U Uniteds, Utah, umbrella, Uzbekistan

V vacuum, vivisection, Vermont, Venezuela, Vatican, vital statistics: (birth, death, marriage, divorce, sickness and death)

W wonders, whales, Wales, Washington, wagons, walkie-talkies, warfare, Warsaw, Winnipeg, watches, wind

X x-ray, St Francis Xavier

Y yaks, Yangtze, yellow fever, yellow-jacket wasps, Yonkers, Yale, Yankee Doodle Dandy



*When Lenny and Davey wanted to know more, they borrowed a book from the Library.



Alternately, use the list above to create an alphabetizing activity.

*Note how Karen Foxlee alternates with names between first name, surname and surname, first name, explaining to students why Lenny and Davey would have found famous people listed under their surname.



Insect words: Lenny the future coelopterist, learns many words specific to insects. There are just a few above. Can you find more using research books and online search engines?

Sadness flower: Lenny describes the sadness flower on pages:

Page 42 'Our wetness and the rain falling past his window.... Had caused my sadness flower to open in my chest',

Page 53 'The sadness flower was fully bloomed inside my chest.... and pigeons with broken wings.'

Can you think of a metaphor for an emotion you feel? How would you describe sadness, happiness or anger?



Death is a subject that Lenny and Davey thought their Burrell's Build it at Home encyclopedia did not explain well: 'no satisfying detail'.

Pages 80-81 'We flipped aimlessly.... Those two paragraphs seemed so clean and clinical. Empty.'

Read passages from the following pages to see how characters develop a better understanding of this subject.

Page 245 'Life is full of last times...with five feelers.'

Page 300 'Sometimes I'd say, "Don't worry about it."all your good bits and bad bits are magnified.'

Page 310 'I said, "But Davey's bed is too small." ... The cessation of heart beat and respiration.'

Page 325-326 'I can't get to the bottom of those days... I don't think I ever heard my mother sound so strong.'

Page 327 '...We squeezed goodbye in Morse code.'

Page 329

