

“Kenny & the Dragon” by Tony DiTerlizzi

Family Reading Assignments, Discussion Ideas, Vocabulary Expansion, & Journal Activities

Author Information: <http://www.diterlizzi.com>

Reading Completion Certificates: Each packet will contain four (4) certificates for completion of weekly readings. These can be signed and returned to school for a chance at winning prizes at our PFE carnival on April 15th!!!!

Morning Trivia: Over announcements each morning, a trivia question from the previous night’s reading will be presented. Each class will submit their answer on a slip of paper and place it in the Royal Chest located in the library. The class with the most trivia questions answered correctly will receive an **EXTRA RECESS!!!!**

“Hand in Projects”:

Week 1: A “Renaissance fellow” is how Graham describes himself. He likes to “see the world and savor it” by painting sunsets, listening to classical music, playing piano, reading, and of course enjoying crème brulee. Paint, draw, or color a beautiful sunset. Try listening to classical music while you create your masterpiece. Then bring your artwork to school by March 21st to have it displayed. Include a title, first & last name, and grade on the back of the art. **Four artists will be chosen to enjoy conversation and crème brulee with a special guest!**

Week 2: George taught Kenny to play chess. “Because,” George had once told him, “in life, you must always plan your moves. Think before you act. Move toward a favorable outcome.” Chess plays an important part in the story. Research the history of chess as well as the rules. An alternative is checkers. Consider how Kenny’s plan to save his friends used some of the same techniques as chess. The basic rules and a game board with pieces are included in the book packet. Be prepared to play for prizes at the PFE Carnival!

Week 3: There are many wonderful illustrations in the story. As a family, choose one of these illustrations. Closely observe the illustration for one minute. Then remove the illustration and try to recall as many details as possible. Share amongst yourselves what each of you recalls. Look at the illustration for another minute, then write and/or draw a description of the illustration including as many details as possible on the ‘Illustration Recall’ sheet in your packet. Return these sheets to school by April 4th.

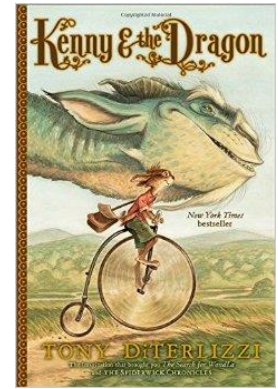
Week 4: Graham loves poetry. Write a poem describing your favorite character from the story. **Or** For families with students in grades 3-6; after every chapter a “journal topic” is presented in the chapter discussion information below. If your child(ren) complete(s) at least one journal entry (1 full page) each week, they will receive a **‘Kenny & the Dragon’ amazing writer award!!!!** Journals and poems are to be turned in by April 11th, including their name, grade, and homeroom teacher.

Chapter Discussion Questions & Vocabulary: Families may use the following comprehension questions and vocabulary guides to discuss each chapter and check for understanding.

Before I forget... **(Tuesday, March 15, 2016)**

Journal Topics:

1. Kenny’s two favorite subjects to read are fairy tales and natural history. What are two of your favorite subjects to read about and why?
2. What is something your teacher would say you are good at? What do you think is something you are good at?
3. Kenny wanted to be an astronaut, explore jungles, and travel below the sea. What are some fun and exciting adventures you want to have?



Vocabulary:

Merit (v): claim to respect and praise; excellence; worth
Extraterrestrials (v): someone originating outside the limits of the earth; an alien
Submersible (v): a device designed for underwater exploration

Flora (vi): the plants in a particular region
Fauna (vi): the animals in a particular region
Cumulus clouds (vi): large, white, puffy clouds that sometimes carry rain

Chapter 1: **(Wednesday, March 16, 2016)**



Questions:

1. Why does Kenny's father want to move?
2. What do you think will happen now that Kenny knows what his father has seen?

Journal Topics:

1. Would you want to move if you knew a dragon was living nearby? Why or why not?
2. What sorts of tools would you take with you to meet a dragon? For example, Kenny takes pots and pans to shield himself, like a knight.

Vocabulary:

Adorned (3): to make more pleasing, attractive, and impressive
Dinged (4): dented or nicked

Carnivorous (5): flesh-eating
Outcroppings (5): portions of bedrock protruding (poking out) through the soil level

Chapter 2: **(Thursday, March 17, 2016)**

Questions:

1. What is Kenny begging his mother to go do?
2. What is Kenny going to ask the dragon?

Journal Topics:

1. Write some questions you would ask the dragon if you met him.
2. Parents often say you cannot go out until the dishes and your homework are done. What was one thing you really wanted to do, but couldn't until you finished your homework?
3. What is something you could do to make yourself less nervous when talking in front of your class?
4. Kenny goes to George to hear stories and exciting tales. Describe someone in your life that tells you stories about their past experiences.

Vocabulary:

Dainty (7): delicate, fragile
Constellations (8): a grouping of stars to make a picture
Migration (9): moving from one place to another, often seasonally
Bestiary (9): a collection of stories providing descriptions of real or imaginary animals and the moral significance of each animal
Tome (9): a very heavy, large book

Retiree (11): a person who is retired from an occupation
Albatross (11): a web-footed sea bird
Chimera (11): a fire-breathing monster with a lion's head, a goat's body, and a serpent's tail
Sinewy (11): having strong tendons
Lance (12): a long wooden handle with a pointed metal head, used as a weapon by knights
Varmint (13): an undesirable, disgusting animal

Chapter 3: **(Friday, March 18, 2016)**

Questions:

1. How big was the dragon?
2. What noise was the dragon making when Kenny first saw it?
3. What does the dragon say he never intends to do?

Journal Topics:

1. If you were sleeping for hundreds of years under the earth, what would you miss the most?
2. How would you feel when talking to a dragon? What would you talk to him about?

Vocabulary:

Drake (16): a dragon
Satchel (18): a small bag with a shoulder strap
Tactic (19): a plan for promoting a desired result
Bantling (19): a very young child
Libation (19): a beverage
Nary (21): not any

Earnest (24): seriously important
Scourge (24): a thing that applies punishment
Nuisance (24): obnoxious, offensive or annoying
Fissure (25): a narrow opening
Etiquette (26): Polite behavior or good manners
Ravenous (28): extremely hungry, famished

- *Monday, March 21st** - Return completion certificate #1 for Chapters 1-3
- Bring sunset paintings to school, include title, first & last name, and grade

Chapter 4: **(Monday/Tuesday, March 21 & 22, 2016)**

Questions:

1. How does Kenny's father's foot get burned?
2. What did the headline say that Kenny saw?

Journal Topics:

1. What is your perfect meal?
2. In this chapter it seems like Grahame is becoming a dear friend to Kenny. Describe one of your best friends. What are they like? What do they like to do?

Vocabulary:

Recounted (29): to count again
Acquaintance (31): a person known to one, but not usually a close friend
Summit (31): The highest point or part of a hill
Connoisseur (32): a judge of the best in any field
Gingham (34): cotton fabric, usually striped or checked

Maw (35): the mouth, throat, or gullet of a carnivorous mammal
Rollicking (40): carefree and joyous, swaggering
Infamous (42): Having a bad reputation
Extermination (44): to get rid of by destroying
Imminent (44): likely to occur at any moment, impending

Chapter 5: **(Wednesday, March 23, 2016)**

Questions:

1. Who is George?
2. Is Graham worried about the headline?
3. When do you think the posse will come?

Journal Topics:

1. How would you feel if your town wanted to "exterminate" your best friend? What would you do to stop them?
2. Why isn't Grahame nervous about the town wanting to get rid of him?

Vocabulary:

Ransacks (47): to search through for plunder
Cavalier (49): a horseman, a mounted soldier, a knight
Codger (51): an eccentric man, especially one that is old

Chide (52): to harass, nag
Daft (53): senseless, stupid, foolish, crazy
Ruckus (55): a noisy commotion

Chapter 6: **(Thursday, March 24, 2016)**

Questions:

1. What were the people talking about when Kenny went into town?
2. What is George's profession?
3. What does the King ask George to do?
4. What will Kenny do now that his old friend George is the one who is supposed to exterminate Grahame?

Journal Topics:

1. If you received a scroll from the king asking you to do something important, what would it be?

Vocabulary:

Throng (57): a crowd assembled together
Roving (57): roaming or wandering
Minstrels (57): a medieval poet and musical who sang or recited while playing a stringed instrument
Gallant (57): brave, spirited, noble-minded, or chivalrous

Slay (58): to kill, destroy
Emblazoned (59): decorated with brilliant colors
Squire (59): a country gentleman
Wallop (63): to strike with a vigorous blow
Kerfuffle (65): a disorderly outburst
Dispatcher (67): a person who oversees the departure

Chapter 7: **(Friday, March 25, 2016)**

Questions:

1. What makes Graham's scales shine?
2. What is going on downtown that Kenny has to leave for?

Journal Topics:

1. Where is somewhere that you would try and hide Graham from George?
2. The first paragraph on page 76 explains many details of such a beautiful day. Write a paragraph about your perfect day the way the author did on page 76.

Vocabulary:

Deluge (69): a great flood of water
Iridescence (73): changing colors
Bane (73): a person that ruins or spoils
Brethren (74): fellow members

Cadger (75): a beggar
Flabbergasted (75): overcome with surprise and bewilderment, astounded
Arduous (76): hard to endure, full of hardships

***Tuesday, March 29th** - Return completion certificate #2 for Chapters 4-7

Chapter 8: **(Monday/Tuesday, March 28 & 29, 2016)**

Questions:

1. When is George going to fight Graham?
2. Do you think George will still fight Graham?

Journal Topics:

1. What would you do if you were in Kenny's shoes? Would you try to talk to George or just wait it out? Would you come up with a plan to stop everything?

Vocabulary:

Impudent (80): shameless
Fluted (82): grooves
Astride (82): with legs apart or on either side of something
Gauntleted (82): a medieval glove worn by a knight to protect his hand
Zealous (82): enthusiastic, eager, intense, passionate
Gussied (82): dressed in one's best clothes
Urchin (83): a small boy or youngster

Din (84): a loud or confused noise
Boisterous (84): rough and noisy
Uproarious (86): very loud
Squire (86): A young man ranked below a knight
Sprightly (88): animated, vivacious, lively
Amis (91): improper, wrong
Agape (93): with the mouth wide open, as in wonder, surprise, or eagerness

Chapter 9: **(Wednesday, March 30, 2016)**

Questions:

1. Who did his mother invite over for dinner?
2. What does George say about the fight?
3. Do you think George and Grahame will get along?

Journal Topics:

1. How do you feel when you introduce two of your friends to one another? What if they do not get along?

Vocabulary:

Trinkets (94): Small collectables
Ruffian (97): a tough person, a bully
Supernatural (98): Something not of this world

Chivalrous (101):
gracious and honorable
toward an enemy



Chapter 10: **(Thursday, March 31, 2016)**

Questions:

1. Is Graham kind to George at first?
2. What do they discuss?
3. What do you think Kenny plans to do?

Journal Topics:

1. Kenny is taught to plan ahead for events in life, like chess. What kind of things do you plan ahead for in your life?

Vocabulary:

Beowulf (104): a hero of a specific poem who slays dragons
Uncultivated (105): educated, refined, cultured
Lout (105): an awkward, stupid person

Insolent (105): boldly rude or disrespectful
Swimmingly (107): without difficulty, with great success, effortlessly
Procession (108): A line of people moving in an order

- *Monday, April 4th** - Return completion certificate #3 for Chapters 8-10
- Return Illustration Recall sheet for week #3

Chapter 11: **(Friday/Monday, April 1 & 4, 2016)**

Questions:

1. How did Kenny get the crowd to leave?
2. Why do you think Kenny is saying all of this about Graham to the audience?

Journal Topics:

1. If there were some sort of show like this going on in your town, would you show up to watch? Why or why not? Place yourself in the show Kenny and his friends are putting on. What character would you be and why?

Vocabulary:

Illuminating (111): To shine light
Miraculously (116): The act of doing something unbelievable
Amphitheater (116): a level area of oval or circular shape surrounded by rising ground; similar to movie theater seating

Tunic (118): a gown-like outer garment
Ornate (119): elaborately adorned
Cavorted (120): behaved in a high-spirited, festive manner
Mage (123): a magician

Chapter 12: **(Tuesday, April 5, 2016)**

Questions:

1. How is Graham acting during the fight?
2. Does the audience believe it is a real fight?

Journal Topics:

1. In the book, they talk about tying a dragon's tail in a knot to make him helpless. What other silly ways can you think of to make a dragon helpless?

Vocabulary:

Incinerating (128): burning or reducing to ashes
Smorgasbord (128): a buffet meal of various hot and cold appetizers, salads, casserole dishes, meats, cheeses, etc.
Malicious (133): vicious, mischievous
Nigh (133): near, approaching

Frenetically (133): frantic, frenzied
Pyre (135): a pile or heap of wood or other combustible material
Thwarted (137): opposed successfully, prevented from accomplishing a purpose
Err (137): to be mistaken or incorrect

Chapter 13: (Wednesday, April 6, 2016)

Questions:

1. What did the audience do after Graham burned Porky's father?
2. Why did they respond that way?

Journal Topics:

1. At the end of this chapter, Kenny has put on the performance of a lifetime. What is one time you put on a performance of a lifetime? It can be in sports, music, a show, or anything.

Vocabulary:

Immense (142): vast, huge, very great
Encore (142): again; once more

Dumbfounded (142): To be in awe or shock

Chapter 14: (Thursday, April 7, 2016)

Questions:

1. Who came to speak to Kenny before they left?
2. What does he ask Kenny to do?

Journal Topics:

1. Grahame always has a new dessert he wants to try. Create a new dessert for Grahame. What are the ingredients and why do you believe Grahame would like the dessert?

Vocabulary:

Flanked (145): standing or placed around the side of
Jester (145): A joke teller or comedian for the king

Prehistoric (150): A time before recorded history
Reluctant (150): Hesitant or nervous

And so...(Friday, April 8, 2016)

Questions:

1. If you were Grahame, would you forgive the whole town for wanting to exterminate you? Why or why not?

Journal Topics:

1. On page 149 it describes a few of the things Kenny likes to do with his friends. What are three of your favorite things to do with your friends?

Vocabulary:

Renaissance (150): pertaining to an era of the 14th through 17th centuries

Reluctant (150): unwilling, disinclined

*Monday, April 11th

- Return completion certificate #4 for Chapters 11-14
- Turn in poems & journal writings, include name, grade, and homeroom teacher.



Other books by Tony Diterlizzi:

- *The Spiderwick Chronicles*
- *Adventure of Meno*
- *Peter Pan in Scarlet*
- *Jimmy Zangwow's Out-of-This-World Moon-Pie Adventure*
- *G is for one Gzonk*
- *Beyond the Spiderwick Chronicles*

Related Websites:

<http://books.simonandschuster.com/Kenny-the-Dragon/Tony-DiTerlizzi/9781416939771>

<http://diterlizzi.com/home/project/kenny-and-the-dragon/>

<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/article/tony-diterlizzi-interview-transcript>

<http://www.teachingbooks.net/tb.cgi?tid=14381&a=1#BookTrailers>