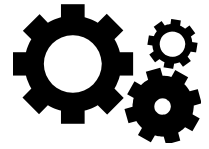




ACTIVITIES to use with *THE GREEN GLASS SEA BY Ellen Klages*



1. Dewey traveled to Los Alamos by train. What can you learn about train travel then and now?
2. “Loose lips sink ships”
“mind your own beeswax”
“knew her onions”
“my stars and garters”
“the \$64 question”
“ain’t over till the Fat Man sings”
These phrases are all used in the book. Find out what they mean. Did you discover any other slang terms from the 1940s?
3. The story takes place in New Mexico. See what you can find about Los Alamos, Trinity and Roswell.
4. The children on The Hill played gin rummy, Red Rover, and jacks. Look up the rules for these games and play them with your friends.
5. Mail to and from The Hill was censored. What would it be like to have your mail read by someone other than the person to whom it was sent? How might this practice be applied to e-mail today?
6. These names are from the book. Find out which(if any) were real people. What did you learn about them?

Jimmy Kerrigan	Enrico Fermi
Dick Feynman	General Groves
Deanna Durbin	Madame Curie
Maxfield Parrish	Doris Day
Hans Bethe	General Eisenhower
Phillip Gordon	Nobel laureates
Marjorie Gordon	Dorothy McKibbin
“Oppie” J. Robert Oppenheimer	
7. In the story physicists are called “fizzlers” and chemists are “stinkers”, can you explain why?
Make up similar names for other occupations.

8. In the story, Dewey makes a "time machine". What can you learn about the invention of the clock radio? Also see what there is to know about ham radios and shortwave radios.

9. Look up the Greek alphabet. Are you aware of uses these letters have in your world?

10. What can you find about the invention and use of the Geiger counter?

11. Because of the censors, Papa writes letters to Dewey in code. Research codes that have been used throughout history. Then make up a code you can use to write a note to a partner.

12. These brand names are used in the book. See if you can find what type of item they are. Are any still in existence today?

Saturday Evening Post	Erector Set
Woolworth's	Pepsodent
Studebaker	Piggly Wiggly
Chemex	Chef Boy-Ar-Dee
Kix	Timex
Premium Saltines	Kool-Aid (5 cents)
Zenith	NEHI
Ovaltine	Eveready

13. Look for pictures of these cartoon heroes from the 1940s. Do they look the same as today's comic strip characters.

Wonder Woman	Sheena, Queen of the Jungle
Captain Marvel	Brenda Starr
Clark Kent/Superman	Captain Midnight
Captain America	

14. Have you ever read a Classics Illustrated Comic Book? See if you can find out how they are different from other comix.

15. Is Trinitite real? What can you tell me about it?

16. World leaders at the time of the story are President Roosevelt, Eleanor Roosevelt, Hitler and Mussolini. Find three interesting facts about each.
17. Suze makes collages. Research this art form. Then make a collage from old magazines and other odds and ends.
18. Dewey's passion is making "gadgets". See if you can make one too. Can you explain why she is calling them "gizmos" by the end of the story?
19. See if you can discover why Hiroshima is referred to at the end of this story?
20. What can you learn about the components of SHAZAM (Solomon, Hercules, Atlas, Zeus, Achilles and Mercury)?
21. The Dump and The PX are special places for Dewey. What are the special places for you and your friends?
22. Mrs. Gordon says about the gadget "it started for a good reason but now . . ." What does she mean?
23. A "mushroom of dust" is referred to early in the story. Later Dewey searches for mushrooms after the rain. Can you guess why these allusions are used in this story?
24. Ellen Klages, author of *The Green Glass Sea*, talks about these authors in her acknowledgements. See if your library has a title by one of them that you would like to read.

Karen Joy Fowler

Nalo Hopkinson

Pat Murphy

Eileen Guin

Michael Swanwick

Ursula Le Guin