

# One Book for Nebraska Teens 2013

## Discussion Questions for *Leviathan* by Scott Westerfeld

1. Why does Deryn want to join the British air service? What is her major obstacle to entrance, and how does she get around it?
2. Deryn has to disguise the fact that she is a girl in order to get into the Air Service. Are there career choices today that are limited to girls and/or boys? Why?
3. In the first chapter, Alek's father is quoted as saying, "You have had enemies from the day you were born." How would it feel knowing that these enemies are simply because of your name not anything you have actually done or said? Do you think knowing from birth would alleviate some of the fear so that you can enjoy your life as Alek does or would you be in a constant state of fear? Or can you equate this with any regular person knowing that there is always going to be someone who doesn't like you?
4. Why did Wildcount Volger and Otto Klopp smuggle Alek out in the middle of the night? Why did they tell him it was a lesson and not an escape?
5. Were you aware that the main character's parents were based on Archduke Ferdinand and his wife whose deaths triggered World War I? Have you read other books that have some basis in history but with a fictional twist? Do you enjoy these types of books? Does it make you curious to read more about the beginning of World War I?
6. What does Hobbes mean by the term "The Kingdom of Darkness"?
7. Why did Alek's father never allow him to be photographed or sketched?
8. What do you think would have happened if Alek had not snuck out to help the crew of the Leviathan?
9. What did Count Volger add to the Leviathan's load that almost cost them everything? Why did he do this?
10. What happened to Dr. Barlow's precious cargo? Why can't she tell Deryn what is in the eggs?
11. Deryn was at home in the sky. Have you ever thought about traveling in any of these wind powered crafts: hot air balloon, skydiving, hang glider, glider airplane, or other similar vehicles?
12. Which would you prefer to be aboard a clanker or the Leviathan? Why?
13. Discuss the use of illustrations in the book, do they add to the story?

If your readers in your library come up with any other questions please pass your ideas along to Sally Snyder at [sally.snyder@nebraska.gov](mailto:sally.snyder@nebraska.gov) or call her at 402-471-4003.

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