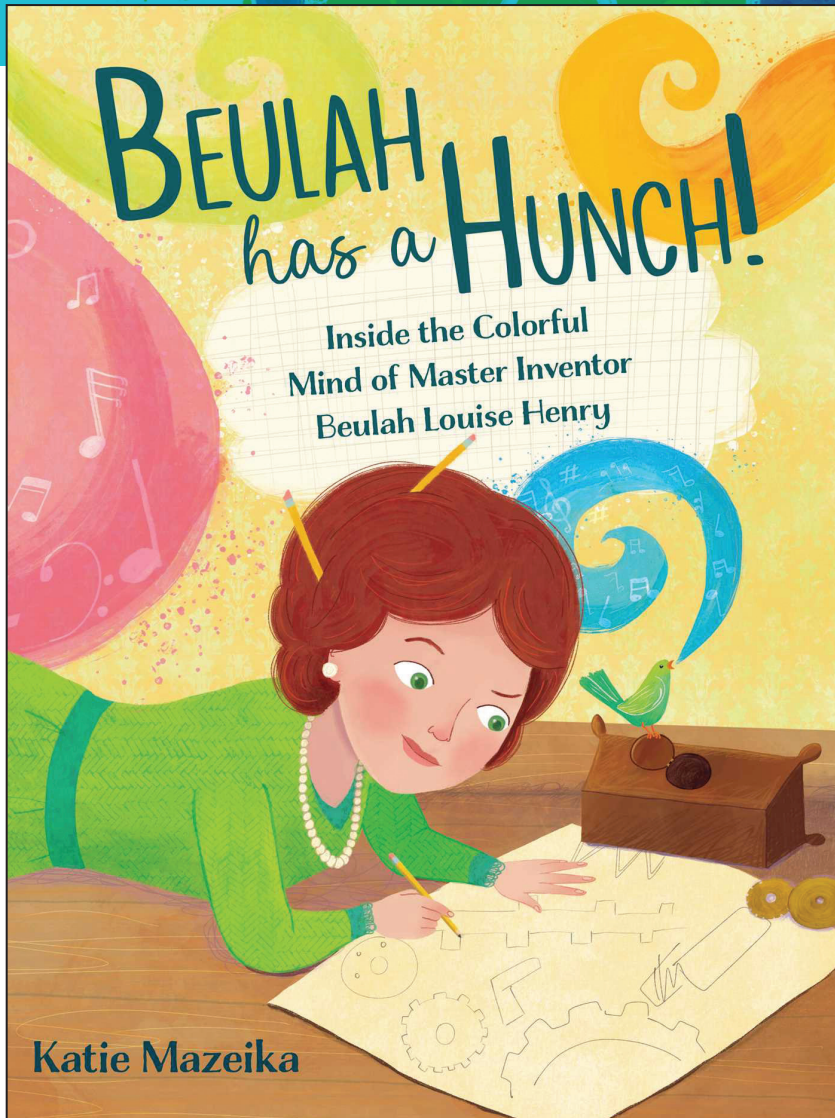


CURRICULUM GUIDE

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BEULAH HAS A HUNCH!

Inside the Colorful
Mind of Master Inventor
Beulah Louise Henry

BY KATIE MAZEIKA

“An excellent introduction to the
life of a woman in the sciences
during a time when such
interests were discouraged.”

—SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL



WHEN BEULAH LOUISE HENRY spotted a problem, she had to find a solution. She would think and think until—AHA! She had a hunch! That’s what she called the inventions that appeared in her mind.

Beulah’s brain worked differently. She had hyperphantasia, which meant she saw things in extreme detail in her mind, as well as synesthesia, which caused words and numbers and even music notes to show up as different colors in her brain. Beulah’s hunches came to her fully formed with gears whirring and wheels spinning. Beulah invented everything from high-tech parasols to cuddly stuffed animals to ice cream makers and factory machinery. She became one of the most prolific inventors in American history—and it all started with a hunch!

Katie Mazeika’s engaging biography of a STEM pioneer will captivate and inspire young readers.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ✿ Look carefully at the cover illustration of the book. What clues can you find about the main character, Beulah, in the illustration?
- ✿ Compare the reasons that cause Beulah and her parents to feel frustrated at the beginning of the story.
- ✿ How does Beulah's mother expect her to behave when the family sits on the porch at the end of the day?
- ✿ What is hyperphantasia and how does it help Beulah when she wants other people to understand her "hunches?"
- ✿ Beulah is fascinated by how things work. Give an example of how Beulah investigates how something in her home works.
- ✿ How does Beulah's experience in school differ from what she really wants to learn?
- ✿ Beulah has synesthesia which she calls "color-hearing." How does synesthesia affect the way Beulah experiences the world?
- ✿ What does Beulah notice about the women who walk with their parasols past her porch in the evenings? What does Beulah do with her observation?
- ✿ Beulah's hunches are unique, and she doesn't want another inventor to copy her inventions. What does Beulah have to do to protect her one-of-kind inventions?
- ✿ Not everyone believes in Beulah and her parasol invention. How does Beulah respond when manufacturers turn her away and refuse to help her make the parasol?
- ✿ How does Beulah know that her parasol invention is a success with women?
- ✿ After Beulah's success with her parasol, she starts two manufacturing companies to make her inventions. What two inventions does she create that kids would love?
- ✿ Why does the patent office call Beulah "Lady Edison?"
- ✿ Beulah has special talents and a unique way of seeing the world around her. What lessons can someone learn from the way that Beulah lives her life?



ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS

COLOR-HEARING

Beulah saw a color for each note when she listened to music. This phenomenon is called synesthesia. Gather crayons, colored pencils, markers, and three sheets of white paper to experiment with what Beulah calls “color-hearing.” Label your art paper with three different types of music: jazz, classical, and rock. Listen to each type of music and imagine what colors would represent each musical selection. Share and compare your finished color-hearing drawings with a partner.

INTERVIEWING BEULAH

Beulah invited reporters from women’s magazines and scientific journals to her hotel suite for interviews. Pretend that you are a reporter from a magazine or journal that has been invited to interview Beulah. What questions would you ask of her? Imagine her responses to your questions based on the information in the story. Write an article about Beulah and her accomplishments that has a headline, a strong beginning, and imagined quotes from Beulah.

BUY THIS!

Beulah’s first invention became a success in part because of the display of her parasols in department store windows. Advertising helps to sell items to people. Pick one of Beulah’s inventions and create an advertisement that would appear in a magazine or newspaper for the invention. Think of a slogan and an illustration that would make people want to buy the invention you chose.

LET BEULAH SOLVE IT!

If Beulah were still living and working today, what current problems would she try to solve with her inventions? In your opinion, what would Beulah invent to help people in our modern world? Write an opinion piece that states which problem you feel is most important for Beulah to address. Give reasons and examples to support your opinion.



The discussion questions and activities in this guide were created by Leigh Courtney, Ph.D. She teaches in the Global Education program at a public elementary school in San Diego, California. She holds both master’s and doctoral degrees in education, with an emphasis on curriculum and instruction.

NAME: _____

CONNECTING TRAITS AND EVIDENCE

What was Beulah like? Was she ambitious? Gloomy? Shy? Write three character traits that best describe her. What examples of Beulah's words and actions from the story confirm these character traits? Support each trait with evidence from the text.



CHARACTER TRAIT _____

Text Evidence

CHARACTER TRAIT _____

Text Evidence

CHARACTER TRAIT _____

Text Evidence

NAME: _____

FOLLOW A HUNCH AND DESIGN AN INVENTION

Beulah was keenly observant of the world. She had “hunches” about how she could improve what she saw around her. These hunches led to Beulah designing new and exciting inventions. Try your hand at the engineering process of invention. What do you have a hunch about? How can you improve something or invent a completely new tool to help people?



NAME OF YOUR INVENTION:

What problem does your invention solve? _____

How does your invention work? _____

Make a labeled diagram of your invention:

A large empty rectangular box with a light blue border, intended for drawing a labeled diagram of the invention.

Who could use your invention? _____

Build a prototype of your invention and share it with your classmates!

NAME: _____

3,2,1: COUNTDOWN TO COMPREHENSION

After reading *Beulah Has a Hunch!*, answer the prompts below.
Share your responses in a small group.



3 THINGS I'VE LEARNED ABOUT BEULAH'S LIFE

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

2 INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT BEULAH'S LIFE

1. _____
2. _____

1 QUESTION I HAVE ABOUT BEULAH'S LIFE

1. _____