Storytelling and Maritime Dreams Coloring Book
Storytelling

For hours, Grandma tells little Denny story after story about sailing tall ships at sea, shipwrecks, living and working in a lighthouse and how the Fresnel lens came to be a gift for the mariners at sea.

He loved listening to all of Grandma’s stories, but it was 9pm and time for bed.

Maritime Dreaming

That night as Denny falls asleep, all the stories he heard started to turn into dreams.

Lets travel with him in his dreams.
Denny’s first dream is as Captain of a 3-masted cargo ship hauling supplies to a new settlement across the sea.

The weather is perfect with the sails full of wind.

Guided by the sun, moon and stars it can take days to sail from port to port.

Sailing night and day with 12 hours on watch and 12 hours off.

Captain Denny loves to sail and thinks about the people waiting for the supplies he is carrying.

He should be seeing land soon.
Dangers at Sea

Denny stirs in his sleep to find himself living the life as a settler in a small town, waiting for supplies brought by ship due to arrive today.

The town is running out of lumber, hides and food.

There are no roads or trains, so their livelihood depends on the ships arriving every couple months.

He sees the ship on the horizon, but a sudden storm starts driving the ship towards the rocks.

Is all lost?
Lost at Sea

Grandma’s story about shipwrecks takes Denny to the bottom of the ocean diving for treasure from a ship wrecked centuries ago.

He sees pottery, silverware, cannons, a ship’s bell, gold and jewels, bronze ornaments and ship’s portals.

Everything else has been eaten-up by the corrosive nature of the sea.

He wonders if the crew was saved?
Safe at Sea

Denny now finds himself having to abandon his own ship before it sinks to the bottom of the ocean.

They were sailing in the dark of night not knowing exactly where they were when they hit the rocks next to an island.

If only there was some way to know where land is in the dark.

What can be done to make sailing safer?
Lighthouse

Denny dreams of sailing to Egypt 2000 years ago at the mouth of the River Nile to witness the first known lighthouse everbuilt.

What a marvel it is! You can see it in the dark from miles away.

This will help guide ships in dangerous waters.

It looks like the Egyptians had the right idea in using light to show the way.

Back then fire was the only source of man-made light.

What about the wind and the rain putting the fire out?

There must be a better way!
France

Fresnel
France and Fresnel

Denny now travels 1800 years in the future to help Augustin-Jean Fresnel (pronounced “Fray-nell”) develop a new way to direct a brighter beam of light many more miles out to sea.

He used many small glass prisms mounted in a frame to direct all the light from a large flame in the same direction.

This produced a brighter light than traveled up to 20 miles in the dark of night.

The new lenses were very successful and distributed throughout the world starting in the mid 19th century.

Who makes sure the light is lit every night?
Lighthouse Keepers

Keepers of the lighthouse at Point Conception in California in the 19th century had a son named Denny.

The keepers would keep the light lit at night, so the ships can calculate where they are to avoid the rocks.

It was a very isolated time, because the closest neighbor was fifty miles away, so they were dependant on monthly delivery of supplies.

Once, Denny had to help keep the light lit, when his father was sick.

It was a tough, but rewarding job to help the mariners navigate the dangerous waters.

How big was the lens?
Lighthouse Lens

The lens is huge!

It is 18-feet tall with 624 prisms and weighs 6000 pounds.

What is that!? An Alarm! What’s wrong?

Denny wakes up to his alarm clock to find he had been dreaming all night about sailing, lighthouses and being a keeper of the light.

He cannot wait to tell his friends of his adventure, even though, it was a dream.

It all starts with a dream.
Lighthouse Trivia

Tallest U.S. lighthouse - Cape Hatteras, NC (191 ft.)

First Colonial Lighthouse - Boston, MA (1716)

Oldest U.S. Lighthouse in Service - Sandy Hook, NJ (1764)

First American West Coast Lighthouse - Alcatraz Lighthouse (1854)

First Great Lakes Lighthouses - Erie, PA & Buffalo, NY (1818)

First Lighthouse Built Entirely by the Federal Government - Montauk Point, NY (1797)

Most Expensive Lighthouse (Adjusted) - St. George’s Reef, CA (1891)

First U.S. Lighthouse to Use Electricity - Statue of Liberty (1886)

Oldest Known Lighthouse Keeper - Henry Hall, 94 - Eddystone, Great Britain

Highest U.S. Lighthouse (above sea level) - Cape Mendocino, CA (515 ft.)

Newest Seaside Lighthouse - Charleston, SC (1962)

Weight of Diamond Shoals Lightship’s Anchor & Chain - 14 tons