

Lucy Topics:

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***Forty
conversations
between
a father and
his daughter***

P: What if you
only had one
foot and one arm?

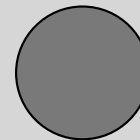
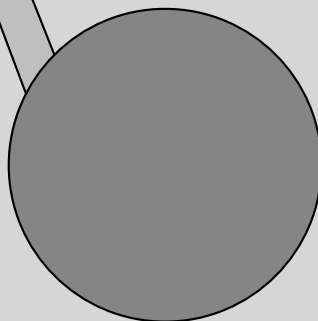
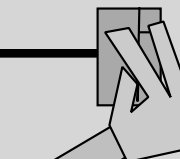
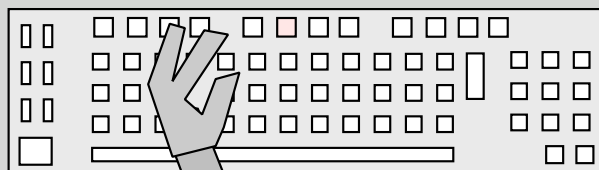
L: But I have two
feet and two arms.

P: But, just
suppose you only
had one foot and
one arm...

P: So, what do
think it would
be like to live
on the moon?

L: I don't want
to live on the
moon.

P: Suppose you
HAD to live on
the moon...



Columbia, Maryland

March 2003

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2. what to do when there is a fire in the house
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The Insides of Peoples Bodies

P: How do people's bodies work?

L: What parts?

P: How do people walk?

L: Well, their muscles send a message up to their brain, very fast, and it makes them walk. That's how you move.

P: How does the brain know what to do?

L: Well, its the controller of your whole body. It controls what you say.

P: But HOW does it control your body?

L: Well, you see, if you didn't have a brain, your body wouldn't work. Your brain is alive, because...your brain is controlling what you say, everything inside you.

P: Cars move around, and they don't have brains. How do cars move around?

L: They have an engine.

P: What's the difference between an engine and a brain?

L: A brain is alive, but an engine is like a battery.

P: What does it mean to be alive?

L: It means you can do stuff by yourself.

What To Do If There Is A Fire In The House

L: You should stop, drop, and roll.

P: What does it mean to “stop, drop and roll”?

L: Well, it means there is a fire in the house. You know, if you kept running in circles, it wouldn't help. The smoke alarm tells you when there is smoke.

P: What if the fire is on the ground?

L: You still should stop drop and roll. It's good if it's on the ground. You would push it down, and crunch it into ashes.

P: But wouldn't you get burned, rolling around on the fire?

L: Maybe, if you weren't wearing clothes you would get burned. The summer is the time there usually is fire. The summer is when it's dry. If it's wet then the fire can't live. Fire can't live in the snow.

How To Sew

L: You have to make the stitches perfectly straight.

P: What are stitches?

L: Stitches: you go up, you go down, you go up, you go down. You keep doing it until the thing you're making is finished.

P: Do you jump up and down, is that what you mean?

L: You put the needle up and down, up and down, up and down.

P: What is a needle?

L: A needle is something very very pointy.

P: A knife is something very very pointy. How is a needle different from a knife?

L: Knives have teeth, or just a straight edge. Needles are pointy.

P: What are teeth?

L: Teeth are what's in your mouth.

P: But does that mean that my mouth is a knife?

L: Papa, you're asking too many questions that you already know.

P: What do you like to sew?

L: I like to sew anything.

P: Would you like to sew a shovel?

L: Shovels, you don't sew.

P: But you said anything!

L: No, I mean anything you can sew.

P: What's an example of something you can sew?

L: An example is a quilt.

P: What's a quilt?

L: Papa, you know what a quilt is.

I Can Read Baby Books

P: What baby books can you read?

L: I can read *Spot* and *Carl*.

P: *Carl* doesn't have any words in it. Anyone can read *Carl*.

L: Yes, it does. It really does, Papa.

P: So, what other books can you read?

L: I can read, um ...

P: How about *Green Eggs and Ham*?

L: That's not a baby book.

P: Do you like baby books?

L: Yes, of course I do.

P: But why can't you think of any baby books, if you love to read them?

L: Because, I just can't think of any.

How To Make A Sculpture Out Of Broken Stuff

L: OK, you can make a person necklace out of an old watch.

P: Oh. What else can you make?

L: Maybe you can make a head out of an old ball.

P: What would you use for eyes?

L: A dirty penny, that was old too.

P: Why wouldn't a clean penny do the job?

L: Clean pennies are always used. They're never thrown out.

P: I see. What would you use for the nose?

L: You could use the same thing as for the eyes.

P: You mean a dirty penny?

L: Yeah.

P: Then how would you tell the difference between the eyes and the nose?

L: Because the nose would be in the middle and the eyes would be on the top.

P: Well, what would you use for the mouth?

L: You could cut an old piece of wood, or a piece of string.

P: Do you think that the person sculpture you can make out of the ball and pennies would like to wear the person necklace you can make out of the old watch?

L: What do you mean, wear?

P: I mean, you could drape it around its neck.

L: Well, the person could have a really thin neck and you could buckle the watch around the neck, so that the watch would be like the stone of the necklace.

I Like To Tell Stories Before I Go To Sleep

P: What kinds of stories do you like to tell.

L: Well, I like to tell stories about my family and me, about Christmas. I like to tell about making presents.

P: Who hears the stories?

L: My animals - that I sleep with in bed.

P: Are your animals alive?

L: No.

P: Do you think that they enjoy the stories even though they aren't alive?

L: Yeah, probably.

P: But how can they enjoy the stories if they don't have a brain to understand them?

L: Well, they're stuffed animals and I imagine that they like it.

P: What story do you like to tell the most?

L: I like to tell Christmas stories the most.

P: Even when it's a long time away from Christmas?

L: Yes. Of course. I can tell any stories.

P: Have you ever told a story about a boat?

L: No. I have something else to say. My stories are always happy. I tell them because I want to have a good dream. That is why I tell them.

Outer Space

P: Would you like to live in outer space?

L: No. I like living on Earth.

P: Well, the Earth is actually sitting in outer space.

L: Yeah, I know, but Earth is the only planet we can live on. We can't live in outer space. We'd die, in like 2 minutes.

P: Do you think other kinds of creatures can live in outer space?

L: Do you mean 'from outer space'? Do you mean, like, cheetahs, lions, bears? Is that what you mean?

P: No. Obviously those things can't live in outer space. I mean creatures from another planet.

L: Like aliens. I was thinking that there might be a planet called "Disney Planet" where all the Disney movies come to life. It's just like Earth, except that it has mermaids and imaginary stuff - not aliens. It has all the princesses, and nothing else. And the princesses' friends.

P: Wait, but aren't mermaids like aliens, since we don't see them on Earth?

L: The aliens aren't part of Disney movies. There's only 7 people on that planet, and they're all princesses.

P: Well, don't you think it would be a sort of waste of the resources of the universe to just recreate what we can see in the movies?

L: The universe is so big, that it wouldn't be a waste. The planets that aren't like Earth - we just don't need them. But we need the stars and the rocks. We don't need the other planets.

P: Why do we need the rocks?

L: Maybe underneath the rocks you'd see something really wierd. Maybe the rocks are blocking something.

P: But maybe you'd see something really wierd on the other planets too. Why would you want to throw away all the other planets, but keep the rocks?

L: The other planets aren't blocking anything; they're just floating around in space. There might be robots on other planets. We have robots on Earth. When I'm grown up they might come to life. Maybe you could marry one. You never know what will happen when you grow up.

What To Do When You're Sick

P: What do you do when you're sick?

L: If you're a child, you have to get a grown-up to give you some medicine. If you're a grown-up, you have to get some medicine yourself.

P: How do the grown-ups know which medicine to give the children?

L: They're smarter than children.

P: Are they smarter, or do they just know more?

L: I mean they know more.

P: But, how did people learn about medicine in the first place?

L: Some people go to medical school and some people just figure out. Some people just visit medical schools.

P: How do the medical schools know what to do?

L: You see, they learned.

P: But where did they learn it?

L: From their medical schools.

P: But where did their medical schools learn it?

L: The same thing.

P: OK, one last question: Where did the FIRST medical school learn about medicine?

L: They just figured it out.

P: How did they figure it out?

L: They just figured it out. OK Papa, that's enough.

How to Make a Beautiful Snowflake

P: So, how do you make a beautiful snowflake?

L: Well, you make a diamond or a square or a circle and then you cut out some holes, then maybe you put some tape on a ribbon, and put some tape on the other side. Then you can blow on it and it will flutter like it was really snowing.

P: Where did you learn to make a snowflake?

L: From my mom.

P: You know, they say that two snowflakes can never be exactly the same. What do you think about that?

L: Well, you could copy them in the copy machine.

P: Wouldn't a snowflake melt in the copy machine?

L: No, because its not made out of snow; its made out of paper.

P: But what about real snowflakes?

L: They would melt in the copy machine.

P: But do you think two real snowflakes could be the same?

L: Yes.

Playing In The Snow

P: Do you like to play in the snow?

L: Yes, I love to play in the snow.

P: What's your favorite part of playing in the snow?

L: I like throwing snowballs, sled riding, climbing mountains, that's all.

P: Do you like to play in your snow with your papa?

L: Yes.

P: He's a great guy, huh - your papa?

L: Yep. That's all I can think to say.

Lounging Around And Watching Movies

P: What are your favorite movies?

L: I like *Muzzy* and *Ariel II*. I like *Beauty and the Beast*. I like *Tigger*, *Winnie the Pooh*. Those are my favorites.

P: What's *Muzzy* about?

L: It's about a monster, and there are some other people in it.

P: What does the monster do?

L: He likes to eat clocks.

P: Why does he like to eat clocks?

L: He comes from another planet.

P: But why would that make him like to eat clocks?

L: Because the other planets might have lots of Muzzys on them. They might eat clocks, too, like we eat fruit.

P: But don't you think clocks are an unlikely thing to eat?

L: Well, it's just a movie. It's sort of make believe.

P: Yeah, but even movies should be plausible. What else happens in *Muzzy*?

L: They found the dark hole where Muzzy lived. It was very dark.

P: Oh. Well, what's *Beauty and the Beast* about?

L: It's sort of like a princess, and this beast. Everyone who lives in the castle is put in a spell. They decided to marry each other, and the spell broke. That's all.

P: Do you think *Beauty and the Beast* is a true story?

L: No, because beasts don't live in castles and they don't talk. And there's no magic around here.

P: Would you like it if there was magic around here, like in the movies?

L: I like it fine how it is.

Listening To Mom Read

P: What books do you like to have Mama read?

L: Well, at night, she reads me books about Laura and Mary.

P: Who are Laura and Mary?

L: Those are some people that lived a long time ago, so its a true story.

P: But now you're learning how to read yourself.

L: Yeah, but I like her to read at bedtime.

P: Why do you like Mama to read at bedtime?

L: Because I'm tired, and I like her to read all the time. So, that's why I like her to read.

P: So, you like her to read because you're too tired to read?

L: No, I get tired at bedtime.

P: But what does that have to do with reading?

L: 'Cause she's reading to me.

P: What other books do you like to read? **L:** What time of day?

P: Early afternoon. **L:** Ummm. Maybe I like...I like interesting books.

P: Such as... **L:** Uh, *The Grinch That Stole Christmas*.

P: What's interesting about that book?

L: It's interesting because he doesn't like Christmas and all the others do.

P: Why is that interesting? **L:** I said.

P: No, you just said that it was interesting. You didn't say why it's interesting.

L: I said that the Grinch didn't like christmas but the others did. That's why it's interesting.

P: But that doesn't explain WHY it's interesting.

L: Well, I think I've explained it enough for you to know.

P: OK, what other books are interesting to you?

L: I like *The Cat in the Hat*. That's interesting.

P: Now there's a good book! **L:** What?

P: The Cat in the Hat - that's a great book. It's one of my favorites too. I find it interesting because the fish can somehow breathe and talk when he's not in his fishbowl. You keep waiting for him to die but he keeps going and complaining. Why do you find it interesting?

L: I think its interesting because they don't want to play and he was just trying to make them play. Because playing is fun.

P: So you think its interesting that they don't want to do something that's fun?

L: OK, that's all.

What There Will Be When I Am An Old Lady

P: So, what will there be when you are an old lady?

L: I don't know. I have to find out.

P: Well, would you care to take some guesses?

L: Sure. Maybe there could be a computer the size maybe of a quilt. And it could also do lots of things.

P: But there are already computers the size of quilts, and computers already do lots of things.

L: I mean the size of a medium quilt. I mean, very big.

P: You know, fifty years ago they had giant computers that filled up entire rooms. One of the trends in the last half century has been the shrinking of computers. So, what makes you think that they will get big again?

L: Very big. Like huge. The size of a tent - a big tent.

P: OK, so what else besides big computers? *L:* I don't know. Why don't you take a guess?

P: I think that it will be possible to marry robots then.

L: I think, when I grow up, there could be TVs that you could just talk to them, and tell them what to do. And they'd do that. Like electric TVs. I mean automatic, not electric. They're already electric.

P: What would the TVs do? *L:* Like if you asked them to rewind, they would rewind - really fast. I think it would only take one second.

P: Do you think people will live on the moon then?

L: They would be able to fly up to the moon without it having to take long.

P: Oh. But would people live there?

L: Well, they could visit it, but they wouldn't live there because they can't breathe on the moon.

P: But maybe they could build buildings which had their own air, so people could breathe.

L: Yeah, that's true, but...also, if they ever opened the windows the space air would come in. And people wouldn't be able to breathe.

P: What's space air? *L:* I mean, like the air that the aliens could breathe.

P: Do you think that aliens live on the moon?

L: I mean like astronauts. Astronauts have their own little tank.

P: Yep, they do. But they breathe regular air, not space air.

L: I know, they breathe air from Earth.

P: OK, what else will there be when you're an old lady?

L: I don't have anything more to say.

Working On The Computer

P: Do you like to work on the computer?

L: Yes

P: What kind of work do you do on the computer?

L: Sometimes I type. Sometimes I draw. Sometimes I try to get the squares perfect. Sometimes I play *Super Munchers*.

P: What squares do you try to get perfect? What does that mean?

L: I mean the little files. Like the drawing one, and the *Super Munchers* one. You know.

P: Yeah, the file icons. What do you draw, when you draw?

L: I draw circles. Not much, because there's nothing much to do on the drawings, on my computer. But at least your computer doesn't have painting.

P: My computer has a better drawing program, right?

L: Yes, my computer's not that good. Its dumb.

P: Its dumb?

L: Yeah, it doesn't do much. Well, it didn't used to be dumb, but then someone messed it up. Well, I messed it up, when I was a baby. But now I don't mess things up.

P: How did baby Lucy mess up the computer?

L: Well, I just moved things around, and that's what I did.

P: What do you type on the computer?

L: I type little notes, that's all.

P: What do the notes say?

L: Ummm. I forget now.

Going Shopping

P: Do you like shopping?

L: Oh, I like it alright. It depends on what time it is.

P: When do you like to shop the best?

L: I like the shop in the afternoon.

P: Why?

L: Because I just like to. I like to shop in afternoon.

P: What do you like to buy?

L: I like to buy clothes, toys.

P: You know, I hate shopping, for the most part.

L: Why do you hate shopping?

P: Well, I like to buy new things mainly when the old things I have wear out. But usually shopping involves buying things I don't need, and then I think it's a waste of money. Also, it's not a creative activity.

L: Well, I think shopping is fun.

School

L: What do you like about school?

P: You mean, what did I like when I went to school?

L: Yeah.

P: I liked playing sports out in the yard. I also liked having a lot of friends all in the same place.

L: I like school because you get to play and have fun. But in other ways I don't like school.

P: In what ways don't you like it?

L: I don't like the hard work.

P: What hard work?

L: The work you have to do.

P: But you're only in kindergarten. The work is probably pretty easy, right?

L: I know, but...

P: Is it just too much busy-work?

L: Yeah, busy work.

P: Would you skip school if you could?

L: Yes.

P: What would you do instead?

L: Play at home, because I like to play at home.

P: But how would you learn anything?

L: I could learn from my parents.

P: Well, your parents are experts in some things, like mathematics; but what about other subjects, like history for instance? How would you learn about history?

L: They know lots of that. Some parents do. Or you could figure things out. That's one way.

P: Well, some parents might know a lot of history, but your papa doesn't. Also, it's the kind of subject you can't just figure out. You have to know the facts.

L: You can figure those out.

P: I don't think so. What happens in the world is very unpredictable from previous events. You never know what's going to happen next.

Practicing Stuff

P: Lucy, do you like to practice stuff?

L: Um, its fun.

P: What do you like to practice?

L: Sometimes I like to ride my bike. I'm usually practicing that everyday I can.

P: Is there anything else you practice?

L: Well, let's see...I'm trying to find a tree to climb, but I can't really find one.

P: Yeah, the trees we have around here, Bradford Pears, aren't so good for climbing. I used to like climbing trees when I was a boy.

L: Let's see...what else do I practice?

P: Well, you practice writing a lot.

L: Oh yeah, I do.

P: What is your goal with practicing writing?

L: I just try to get all the words right. It doesn't matter to me about the words.

P: What do you mean, it doesn't matter about the words? You just said that you try to get the words right.

L: I mean, um, I don't really try to get them right but I'm hoping to get them right. I just sound them out.

P: Do you know what a dictionary is?

L: Yes, its something you can find lots and lots of words in. My school has one for children.

P: Maybe you should get a dictionary for home.

L: Maybe we should stop there.

What I Want To Be When I Grow Up.

P: What do you want to be when you grow up?

L: I want to be a first grade teacher.

P: Is that the only thing?

L: Yes.

P: What attracts you to the first grade teaching profession?

L: I like first grade. I think I would like to be a first grade teacher.

P: But why?

L: Because its fun.

P: What makes it fun?

L: I like to teach people.

P: What do you like to teach them?

L: I like to teach them math.

P: What topics in math?

L: OK, times!

P: But what if the children are screaming or picking their noses while you are trying to teach them about times?

L: I'll put them all in time out and send a letter home.

P: Well, suppose they come back the next day and do the same thing, only worse?

L: I'll give up.

P: But then how will you earn your living?

L: I will get another job, and that's all.

P: What other job?

L: I don't know.

What To Do When Your Foot Falls Asleep

P: So, what should one do, when one's foot falls asleep?

L: Walk around, or jog, or run, or skip, or gallop; but the best thing to do is walk.

P: What if both feet fall asleep?

L: Stomp, or do the same thing last time.

P: Well, suppose your foot isn't asleep, but rather has gone away on vacation without telling you?

L: The same thing you do when your voice goes on vacation. Just wait until it comes out. In the meantime, don't be excited. Don't be swimming.

P: Well, what if you actually get a postcard in the mail from your foot, and your foot says that it likes the tropics so much that it isn't planning on coming back.

L: Well, then just move to the tropics and find your foot motions, or if your parents won't let you, just beat your foot and it signals your foot so that if your foot stays there it will be in jail for the rest of its life.

P: You know, in fifty years people might have mechanical feet.

L: That's what I mean: just get a new foot. That's all.

Princeton, New Jersey

November 2003

20. organizing stuff
21. making patchwork quilts
22. ice skating
23. where people came from
24. chatting with people
25. playing with Lily
26. watching the snow fall
27. the chicken or the egg
28. listening to my tape player
29. playing with my stuff
30. putting Lily to bed
31. what germs look like
32. monsters
33. playing with my dolls
34. cooking
35. is there life on other planets
36. babies
37. I like playing with magnets
38. drawing pictures
39. my 5 names
40. designing and making stuff

Organizing Stuff

P: Do you like to organize stuff?

L: Sort of.

P: Well, what do you like to organize?

L: I like to organize rooms that do not have any furniture in it. I mean that ... um ... its a new house.

P: These rooms that you like to organize - is there anything in them at all?

L: No.

P: Then in what sense are you organizing the room? I mean, if its completely empty, how can you change it by moving things around in it?

Patchwork Quilts

P: I heard you made a quilt recently.

L: Yes, I did.

P: Can you tell me about it?

L: Sure. First, I got Mama to cut me out little cubes. Then I sewed the cubes together with teeny, teeny stitches. Then I put all of it together. Then I unfolded it and there was a patch. Mama sewed all the patches together. Then I picked out black binding and then Mama sewed the binding on the top and I sewed the binding on the bottom.

P: So, do you think that you did most of the work, or Mama did?

L: I did, because Mama only sewed, and she sewed on the sewing machine; so it didn't take that long.

P: Do you plan to make any more?

L: Many, many more. But, of course, I won't do them all at once.

Ice Skating

P: Do you like ice skating?

L: Yes, but ... um ... I can't do it very well.

P: Would you like to practice, so you can do it better?

L: In the winter I could.

P: I've heard that you can skate on the Institute pond in the winter. It freezes over.

L: How could you? There's thin ice. It never is really thick.

P: Well, that's what I'm saying: The ice gets thick enough so that you can safely skate on the pond.

L: It would take a very long time, and it would be spring by the time the pond would be frozen, and then it would just melt.

P: Well, it might be cold enough here so that the pond really does freeze completely, before spring.

L: I don't think so, because it's not very cold here. It's not the coldest place in the world.

P: Well, do you think that the testimony of many people who have seen the pond freeze every winter for the past 50 years or so is good evidence that it might freeze this year; or do you think that this year is going to be exceptionally warm?

L: Well, you never know. You might be wrong; you might be right. Who knows.

P: Sure, there's also a possibility that the sun won't rise tomorrow. The only reason we think that the sun will rise tomorrow is that we've seen it rise in all previous days.

L: The sun always rises. If the sun did not rise tomorrow then we would all be dead.

P: Well, I say the pond always freezes. How is the situation with the pond different from the situation with the sun?

L: It's cold and the sun is warm.

P: No, that's not what I mean. I mean, the only way we know that the sun rises is past experience. The only way we know that the pond freezes is past experience. If you believe that the sun will rise tomorrow, based on past experience, why not also believe that the pond will freeze this winter, based on the same kind of past experience?

L: Papa, you already know.

Where People Came From

P: Where did people come from?

L: Lot's of places.

P: Like where?

L: Well, we come from Maryland.

P: But, where did people originally come from? I mean, how did it come to pass that there are people on earth?

L: I don't know. There are millions of millions of people.

P: I know. But where did they all come from?

L: Well, we will start out with the tropics, like Africa. Oops, I don't know many of the tropics.

P: So, did people come from Africa originally?

L: Not all of them. I will start out with the cold places, like ... um ... Alaska or ... I'll just start with one of each, hot and cold. Oops, and the middle too. That one could be New Jersey. It's in the middle.

P: So, would you rather live in Africa, Alaska, or New Jersey?

L: Hmmm, that's hard to do, but let me think... um... New Jersey.

P: Yeah, parts of New Jersey are pretty nice. Newark is really terrible, however. You wouldn't want to live in Newark, or Elisabeth either, or Edison. There are lots of really bad places in New Jersey.

Chatting With People

L: So, any questions about "chatting"?

P: Yeah, do you like to chat with people?

L: Sometimes. But I just like to do it with people who are my age - not older or younger.

P: Do you chat with your own reflection in the mirror?

L: Of course not!

P: Just checking. So, why don't you like to chat with people who are younger with you?

L: Because they don't know as much as me.

P: Why don't you like to chat with people who are older than you?

L: The same thing with me. They'll feel like I feel when chatting with younger kids. They're smarter than me.

P: Well, age and brains aren't the same. For instance, the trees are very old, but also completely brainless. Some people are like trees.

L: I know they are not the same. Brains and bodies are not the same.

P: Well, what makes you think that you know more than people younger than you, and less than people older than you?

L: Because, if they're 1-year olds, they hardly know anything. Babies can walk and talk and sleep and eat, but that mostly what they can do.

P: What do you like to chat about with people your own age?

L: I like to chat about nature and I forget all the other ones.

P: What aspects of nature do you like to chat about?

L: Oh, lots of things, like the ocean or maybe the trees. I think we better stop now.

Playing With Lily

P: Do you like to play with Lily?

L: Sometimes. The only time I don't want to play with Lily is when I'm playing by myself in my room or having a play date.

P: What games do you play with Lily?

L: Oh, whatever she wants to play.

P: Like what? What's an example?

L: Like "tea party" or "sewing" or "doctor".

P: Do you and Lily get along while you're playing, or do you fight?

L: Usually we get along.

P: What do you think Lily thinks about?

L: I think she thinks about animals, her teachers, her classmates.

P: Is that it?

L: Of course not.

P: So, what else does she think about?

L: I don't know. That's all that I can think of, that Lily thinks about.

Watching The Snow Fall

P: Do you like to watch the snow fall?

L: Yes, but sometimes I get bored after a while.

P: That's understandable.

L: So, do you like watching the snow?

P: It's about the same for me. I like watching it for a while, but then maybe I get bored. If it's really falling a lot, then I can watch it for a long time without getting bored.

L: I like the snow because you can make snowmans or build a snow castle or a bunny or a big hill or a big mountain.

P: Do you like sledding?

L: Yes, that's my favorite, and there's one more thing I'd like to say: to make a snowman you have to make a huge first one, then a middle sized one, then a small one. The head is the most important one. You have to make that first. If your mama is making carrots you have to ask her for one, and use it for the nose. Then, if she has raisins, you ask her for two raisins for the eyes. If she's cooking string beans you take one of the string beans. If she doesn't let you try, you sneak it. If you get caught, ask her for some string cheese, and peel some off and put that one for the mouth and then eat the rest.

P: What if you don't like string cheese?

L: Then just peel some off and tell your mom that you really need string cheese, if your sister likes it.

P: What if your sister doesn't like string cheese, or you don't have a sister?

L: Then ask your mom to just buy some. Or, if she won't buy some right now, just go to your friend. And if your friend likes string cheese just get some from her.

P: What if you don't have any friends?

L: Then just use sticks.

The Chicken Or The Egg

P: So, which came first, the chicken or the egg?

L: The egg, well, I guess the chicken, or maybe the egg. Who knows?

P: That wasn't much of an answer. You haven't really given me a firm opinion about which one came first, the chicken or the egg.

L: Let me think. How about, the egg came first?

P: Who laid the egg?

L: I'll explain it. I think that there was a flower of the dinosaurs, that they ate, and that the chicken was not in the egg. I guess the last egg or maybe right after the dinosaurs died and the meteor stopped and there was some mold inside of the eggs. So there was mold. And the mold built into a chicken. And that's how I think. And then they nibbled a hole and pushed their way out, and there was a baby chicken, and that's how it all started.

P: What made the mold decide to change into a chicken?

L: Maybe there were teeny teeny invisible eggs that had bones and stuff like that and it all built into a chicken. Maybe the mold fed them and they hatched inside the egg.

P: OK, but where did the mold-filled, bone-filled egg come from?

L: I don't know. The problem is, we're not dinosaurs.

P: So, at any rate, you think that the dinosaurs had something to do with the first chicken, and the details are lost, on account of the total destruction of the dinosaurs by the meteor? Is that right?

L: Um-hmm.

Listening To My Tape Player

P: You don't even have a tape player, do you?

L: Yes I do, although it's broken. I have two, though they're both pretty much broken.

P: Well, what did you listen to, when you had a working tape player?

L: I forget, but I know ... well, I really do forget.

P: Do you like to listen to music now?

L: Yes.

P: What is your favorite kind of music?

L: I like the music that I learned in my new school, Littlebrook.

P: And what music is that?

L: Well, I can sing them.

P: But we can't put the song into the computer.

L: Why can't you? I can say the names.

P: OK, what are the names?

L: Well, there's *Mickey Mouse March*. There's *Clap Your Hands*. There's *All Around the Kitchen*. And there is a second grade song, which I don't know the name of it and there is *A Piece Like a River*. And there's *The Littlebrook Pledge*.

P: What is *The Littlebrook pledge*?

L: That's a pledge for Littlebrook.

Playing With Stuff

P: What stuff do you like to play with?

L: Well, I like to play with my baby dolls. And sometimes I like to play with my Barbies. And sometimes I like to play dress-up.

P: Do you have a lot of stuff, or just a little?

L: I have a lot of stuff. At the Institute where we are now I don't have a lot of stuff, but at my real home I do.

P: Do you miss all the other stuff?

L: Well, I did a long time ago, but now I cleaned it up, and its probably going to stay like that.

P: You mean, you put everything away?

L: I mean, I organized everything. And you know that I moved my bed.

Putting Lily To Bed

P: Do you like putting Lily to bed?

L: Well, sort of.

P: Do you like it more than you dislike it?

L: No.

P: So, you dislike it more than you like it.

L: Every once in a while I do it.

P: Why don't you like putting Lily to bed very much?

L: I don't know.

P: Yes, but you must have some reasons.

L: If I slept with her she would kick me in the morning. Anyway, I have to get up at seven, to go to school.

P: Well, you could put her to bed and then sleep in a different room.

L: Well, I really can't think of any reasons.

P: But you still maintain that you don't really like to put Lily to bed.

L: I can't think of anything!

What Do Germs Look Like?

P: What do germs look like?

L: What germ?

P: How about the germ that gives you a cold?

L: Well, let's see, I don't know many types of germs, but.. and also I don't know the name of that germ. But I know what bacteria looks like, and viruses.

P: What do viruses look like?

L: Well, the kind I know looks like a ball, with points.

P: Is it a big ball, or a little ball?

L: In the movie it looked like a big ball.

P: How big?

L: Well, say about 5 inches.

P: 5 inches! How come I've never seen a virus that is 5 inches across.

L: The movie was at school.

P: Does that mean that the school shows inaccurate movies?

L: What's that mean?

P: Well, it seems hard for me to believe that there are actually viruses which are 5 inches across, so if the school's movie led you to believe that they were that big, then the movie was inaccurate.

L: Its just LOOKED that big on the screen. It wasn't really that big.

P: Well, how big is it, really?

L: Well, I don't really know.

Monsters

P: Do you think monsters really exist?

L: No, definitely not. If I knew that they were real, I would really be scared.

P: What about cookie monsters? Do they exist?

L: No, of course not.

P: Do you like monsters?

L: Well, sort of.

P: Were you scared of monsters when you were a very little girl?

L: Yes, of course.

P: But not now.

L: No, not now.

P: Do you think that there are monsters on other planets?

L: Well, I think that there would be monsters in another solar system.

P: Yeah, that's what I meant. I know that there isn't any life on the other planets in our solar system.

L: I think monsters are really, really furry and have sharp claws and rolling eyes and also there are friendly monsters, like Muzzy.

P: What is Muzzy?

L: It's a movie.

P: And Muzzy is a monster in the movie.

L: Yes.

Playing With My Dolls

P: What is your favorite doll?

L: I have two favorites, no three.

P: And what are they?

L: You mean, what are their names?

P: Yeah. What are their names?

L: Well, my littlest favorite is Korel. It came with the name. The medium sized one is Elizabeth. The real sized one is, say, about 1 years old - well, that's what it looks like. And its name is Marion.

P: Do you think that dolls get any older?

L: No, of course not.

P: Why do you like to play with dolls?

L: It's kind of a training, if I have a real baby.

P: But a real baby spits up and cries, and poops, and stuff like that. Also, it moves around.

L: Most trainings don't have the real thing in it.

P: So, the training is roughly similar to what it would be like having a baby.

L: Well, I can pretend that it's crying and then stop it. The way to stop it from crying is maybe to give it some Nutella.

P: Do you mean, give the baby some Nutella, or the doll?

L: The baby.

P: But, maybe it would get fat if it ate too much Nutella.

L: I wouldn't give it too much.

Cooking

P: Do you like to cook?

L: Absolutely!

P: What do you like to cook?

L: Many, many things.

P: Such as?

L: Well, one of my favorites is “horns”.

P: What are “horns”?

L: I knew you would say that. It’s hard to explain, but I will try my best. Well, first you have to make the dough, as all baking. Then you make it into balls and put it in a bowl and put it in the refrigerator for, say, a few hours. Then you take it out and you roll it into a big, nice circle. Then you cut it into squares with a non-sharp knife - well, a little sharp. Then after they’re in squares, you put something in it, but I forget what its called. Then you roll it into a horn shape, roll it some flour, then put it on a cookie sheet and cook it. Then, when you’re done it’s some nice perfect horns.

P: So, in short, horns are a kind of cookie.

L: Yeah.

P: What else do you like to cook?

L: Well, gingerbread. It’s not so complicated. I eat most of the dough. We usually use raisins, and that’s all. And they turn out to be really good. Next time we break gingerbread I’m probably going to put a lot of stuff on mine. I’ll ask Mama.

P: Do you bake by yourself, or with Mama?

L: Of course not. I bake with Mama.

P: Do you ever bake with anyone else?

L: No, but I cook with someone else, which is possible.

P: I thought that you and Grandma sometimes make cookies.

L: Yes, that’s true, and chocolate pie, and kasha.

P: What is kasha?

L: Well, its buckwheat and onions and pasta and consommè soup and that’s really all.

Is There Life On Other Planets?

P: So, is there life on other planets?

L: Well, what solar system? Our solar system? *P*: Other solar systems.

L: Well, I believe that there is.

P: What makes you think so? *L*: Well, I don't know. I just think so.

P: Do you think there are beings like people on other planets? *L*: No.

P: So, the life on other planets would be very different? *L*: Yes.

P: How would it be different?

L: Well, maybe they're like aliens with four eyes or one eye or a thousand eyes or three mouths, no nose, one little hair. Maybe they're humongous. Or maybe they're as teeny as bacteria.

P: Some people think that the universe is infinite in size. In that case maybe you would see all possible kinds of life, some of it just like us but on a different planet. What do you think about that?

L: I don't think there's anyone just like us, not even on Earth or on other planets.

P: Well, the universe is a pretty big place, so it has a lot of chances to produce people just like us somewhere else.

L: But we're the only one on all the universes of the whole google-plex universes.

P: How do you know?

L: Well, I'm just guessing.

P: But why do you make that guess? Do you think that there are two bees that look just about exactly alike?

L: Well, I don't really know.

P: Do you think that there are two ants that look just about exactly alike?

L: Yes.

P: Well, if you think that there are two ants that look just about alike, right here on Earth, why not two people that look just about alike in the whole universe?

L: People are very different. But ants and bees and all the stuff you explained are really the same.

P: I don't think people are that different from ants and bees.

Babies

P: Do you like babies?

L: Sort of.

P: What do you like about them?

L: Well, I like the way that they play with people.

P: They are people.

L: Yes, I know.

P: How do they play with other people?

L: Well, its hard to say.

P: Then what do you like about the way they play with people?

L: Well, I don't know.

P: Do you think that babies think about things?

L: Maybe.

P: What do they think about?

L: I don't really know. I can't read baby's minds.

P: Well, suppose you had to take a guess as to what they think about. What your guess be?

L: I think that they might think about people.

P: Do you want to have a baby someday?

L: Yes.

P: Why do you want a baby?

L: I don't know.

P: You mean, you want a baby but you don't know why you want a baby?

L: I don't know.

I Like Playing With Magnets

P: Do you like playing with magnets?

L: Yes! But I don't do it all the time, but sometimes I like to.

P: What do you like about magnets?

L: I like Papa's magnets, that was from his poster.

P: What do you like about the magnets from the poster?

L: Well, they're just really cool, and I can divide them in little groups.

P: What do you mean, little groups?

L: I mean, like 2,4,6,8,10,12, and so on.

P: You mean, in arithmetic progressions?

L: I don't know what that means.

P: An arithmetic progression is like 2,4,6,8,10,12 or 3,6,9,12,15, and so forth.

L: Yes, that's what I do.

P: But the thing about those magnets is that they have pictures on them, and you might like them even if they weren't magnetic. Is there anything about magnets themselves that you like? One thing I like about magnets is that they stick together, as if by magic.

L: Yes, that's what I like about magnets.

P: Why do you think that they stick together?

L: Well, I think that there are these little things inside, and one matches to the other and one doesn't, and so if you put it on something magnetic it will work.

P: Some people think that if you put magnets on your head, it will help you in some way. What do you think about that?

L: I don't think its really true.

P: Yeah, the people that think that about magnets are basically crackpots. Magnets attract a lot of crackpots. Do you know what crackpots are?

L: No.

P: Crackpots are people who believe things without having any evidence for them.

Drawing Pictures

P: What kinds of pictures do you like to draw.

L: Well, I like to copy, and I like make-up. And I like to draw basically anything.

P: Do you like to draw pictures of beetles?

L: Well, if you ask me to, I would.

P: Do you like to draw pictures of talking oranges?

L: Well, if you ask me to, I would.

P: But, what do you draw, mainly, without being asked?

L: Well, let me think for a minute. I like to draw people and princesses.

P: What sort of princesses?

L: Made-up ones.

P: Do you make them up yourself, or do you get them from books or movies?

L: No, I basically make them up.

P: Do you want to be a princess?

L: Well, no.

P: What do you think princesses do all day?

L: Order people.

P: You mean, tell them what to do?

L: Yes.

P: So, what makes them so fun to draw?

L: I don't know, they're just really creative.

P: Do you mean that the princesses themselves are really creative - for instance, in the way that they give orders - or do you mean that it takes creativity to draw them?

L: It just is creative to draw their dresses and faces.

P: Is that your favorite part, drawing their dresses?

L: Yes.

P: Do you want to be an artist when you grow up?

L: No, I want to be a teacher. Oh, and by the way, you're doing another topic.

P: No, the question of being an artist when you grow seems related to the topic of drawing.

L: Well, yes, its related, but its not exactly.

My Five Names

P: What are your five names?

L: Well, my real name, when I was born, was Lucina Caroline Schwartz. And my nick-name is Lucy. And my made-up name is Lucine.

P: Which of the names do you like the best?

L: I like Caroline.

P: Why did you make up Lucine, and under what circumstances do you use it?

L: I don't use it, but I like it a lot.

P: So, why did you make it up?

L: Well, its the name of a shell, and I really like it.

P: Did you know that in the United States you are free to change your name to anything you want? You could change your name to Blanche Backbiter if you wanted to.

L: I wouldn't pick a crazy name.

P: If you were given the chance to change your name from Lucina to Lucine, would you do it?

L: I am not sure.

P: OK, which name do you like the least, of your five names?

L: I really don't have a least favorite.

Designing And Making Stuff

P: What do you like to make?

L: I like to make quilts.

P: I've seen your quilt. Its great. Do you plan to make any others?

L: No, but I made a pillowcase and I gave it to Grandma. Wait, if you don't know her, my dad's father, who is Papa.

P: What do you like to design?

L: I like to design, well, I don't really know.

P: Would you like to design a house someday?

L: Maybe.

P: Would you like to design a robot?

L: Maybe.

P: Would you like to design an airplane?

L: Maybe.

P: is there anything that you would definitely like to design?

L: I would like to design a car.

P: What sort of car?

L: A new kind of car that no one's thought of.

P: What kinds of new features would it have?

L: Well, it would be extra big and it would have lots and lots of seats. And it would go really fast and it would have a big huge TV in it. And it would be so cool.

P: What color would it be.

L: I would make it in red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, grey, white, brown, black, or peach.

P: Do you think that many people would buy the peach version?

L: Oh, I don't know.