

# Strategy: Language Experience Approach (LEA)

## DESCRIPTION

LEA stands for Language Experience Approach. It is a strategy in which a text is created on a chart by a teacher based on a students' contributions. The teacher and students have an experience and the teacher writes what the student dictates about that experience.

It is based on Roach Van Allen's teaching students to read based on their oral language (e.g., What I can say, I can write/What I can write, I can read/ I can read what I write and other people can write for me to read.)

The best books have projects that model the language used during the people's experience.

## STEPS

1. **Shared Experience** Begin with a class experience. Sometimes this is with a picture book activity, such as cooking a recipe, planting, or making a craft.
2. **Create the Text** Have students take turns dictating their experience as you transcribe it onto a chart. For example, Linea said, "I put a seed in the dirt." Lee said, "I folded my paper."
3. **Read the Text** Read this dictated story together in a variety of ways. Then gradually release them into being able to use the newly acquired English on their own.
4. **Extension** Engage in a variety of repetitive activities utilizing the language learned.

## BOOKS

Argueta, J. (2009) *Sopa de Frijoles/Bean Soup*. Greenwood Books.

- All grades. ELL Stage: advanced beginner. AD550L
- Also use with: Comparing and Contrasting (bilingual)
- LEA activity: make soup

Bunting, E. (1999) *Butterfly House*. Scholastic Press.

- Elementary grades. ELL Stage: advanced beginner. AD620L
- Also use with: Retelling, Comparing and Contrasting (multitext)
- LEA activity: make a butterfly house

Bunting, E. (2001) *Flower Garden*. Topeka Binding.

- Elementary grades. ELL Stage: intermediate beginner. AD460L
- LEA activity: plant a garden

De Paola, T. (1990) *Pancakes for Breakfast*. Greenwood Books.

- All grades. ELL Stage: wordless book.
- Also use with: Retelling
- LEA Activity: make pancakes

Ehlert, L. (1991) *Growing Vegetable Soup*. Harcourt.

- All grades. ELL Stage: intermediate beginner. 360L
- Also use with: Vocabulary Visuals
- LEA Activity: make vegetable soup

Emberly, R. (2004) *Pinata*. Little Brown Books for Young Readers; Bilingual edition

- Older grades. ELL Stage: advanced beginner
- LEA Activity: make a pinata

Emberley, E. (2006) *Ed Emberley's Picture Pie* (Ed Emberley's Drawing Books).

- All grades. ELL Stage: early beginner
- LEA activity: draw

Emberley, E. (2005) *Ed Emberley's Picture Pie Two*

- All grades. ELL Stage: early beginner
- LEA activity: draw

Gonzales Bertrand, Diane. (2003). *The Empanadas that Abuela Made/Las empanadas que Hacia la Abuela*

- All grades. ELL Stage: intermediate beginner
- Same as “this is the house that Jack built.”
- Also use with: Substitution

Hall, M. (2011). *Perfect Square*. Greenwillow.

- All grades. ELL Stage: intermediate beginner. AD470L
- LEA Activity: draw (see book-after-book lesson plan)

Hill, M. (2002) *Let's make pizza*. Scholastic.

- Elementary grades. ELL Stage: early beginner. 290L
- LEA Activity: make a pizza
- Also use with: TPR

Hoff, S. (1994) *Drawing with numbers and letters*. Scholastic Press.

- All grades. ELL Stage: early beginner
- LEA activity: draw

Holub, J. (2001) *The pizza that we made*. Penguin Books for Young Readers.

- Elementary grades. ELL Stage: early beginner
- LEA Activity: make a pizza
- Also use with: TPR

Hurley, Jorey. (2018). *Every Color Soup*. Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books.

- Older grades. ELL Stage: early beginner

- LEA Activity: make soup
- Also use with: Vocabulary Visuals

Ismael, Y. (2017) *Push Pull Empty Full: Draw and Discover*. Laurence King Publishing.

- Elementary grades. ELL Stage: beginner
- LEA activity: draw

Iwai, M. (2010) *Soup Day*. Henry Holt and Co. (BYR).

- All grades. ELL Stage: intermediate beginner. AD440L
- LEA Activity: make soup

Krauss, R. & Johnson, C. (2004). *The Carrot seed*. Harper Collins.

- All grades. ELL Stage: early beginner. AD400L
- LEA Activity: plant a garden

Linn, G (2004). *Kite Flying Family*. Dragonfly Books

- All grades. ELL Stage: intermediate beginner. 280L
- LEA Activity: draw, make and fly a kite

Matheson, C. (2017) *Plant the Tiny Seed*. Greenwillow.

- Early elementary grades. ELL Stage: intermediate beginner
- LEA activity: plant a garden

McQuinn, A. (2017) *Lola Plants a Garden*. Charlesbridge.

- Elementary grades. ELL Stage: intermediate beginner. AD470L
- LEA activity: plant a garden

Pomeroy, D. (2000) *One Potato: A Counting Book of Potato Prints*. Harcourt Children's Books.

- Elementary grades. ELL Stage: early beginner
- LEA activity: make prints

Press, D. (2017) *How to draw for kids*. DP Kids.

- Early elementary grades. ELL Stage: early beginner
- LEA Activity: draw

Ross, K. (2008) *Crafts for Kids who are learning about insects*. Millbrook Press.

- All grades. ELL Stage: advanced beginner. IG660L
- LEA activity: make crafts

Segal, J. (2006) *Carrot Soup*. Margaret K. McElderry Books.

- Early elementary grades. ELL Stage: intermediate beginner
- Also use with: Retelling
- LEA activity: make soup

Sturges, P. (1999) *The little red hen (makes pizza)*. Puffin an imprint of Penguin.

- Early elementary grades. ELL Stage: intermediate beginner. AD570L
- Also use with: Reader's Theater, Retelling
- LEA Activity: make a pizza

Thompson, L. (2007) *The apple pie that papa baked*. Simon & Schuster.

- All grades. ELL Stage: intermediate beginner
- Also use with: Vocabulary visuals; Substitution with the cumulative poem pattern "These are the \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_, that went in the pie that papa baked."
- LEA Activity: bake a pie

Vega, D. (2008) *Build a Burrito*. (English & Spanish). Cartwheel Books.

- Early elementary grades. ELL Stage: early beginner
- LEA Activity: make burritos
- Board Book

## LESSON PLAN

### ANCHOR BOOK

Emberly, R. (2004) *Pinata*. Little Brown Books for Young Readers; Bilingual edition

### OBJECTIVES

- Students will be able to orally retell what the project steps are using nouns and verbs
- Students will be able to read key sentences in the book

### PREPARATION

- Find directions on how to make a pinata
- Gather the materials needed to do the hand-on activity
- Display a blank chart for the writing of the dictation text
- Prepare word cards for the key objects used in the project

### PRESENTATION

- Build a pinata with the directions of how to make a pinata as your guide.
- While doing the activity give students word cards to match to objects in the directions (paper, scissors...).
- Show the written word cards that you prepared and have them repeat after you, e.g., "paper" "balloon"...
- Have students repeat a sentence with you, e.g., "I am cutting the paper." "I blow the balloon." (This is to ensure that during the activity students are exposed to specific

