



LEAP[®]

Literature Enrichment
Activities for Paperbacks

Amber Brown Is Not a Crayon

by Paula Danziger

Teacher's Guide



Introduction

LEAP is a program in which a group of students read the same book independently, complete the activities that accompany the book, and then share and discuss the book and activities with one another. Among the books are old favorites as well as some that will become new friends.

The ultimate goal of LEAP is to promote a love of reading. The activities are designed to enhance the students' enjoyment of each book and to encourage them to explore its connection to their own lives. The varied activities are also designed to enhance learning but in ways not usually associated with the learning of skills.

The pages in the activity packet are not to be collected or corrected; their main purpose is enjoyment.

LEAP packets are created for grades two through six. The program is used by teachers who wish to motivate their students to read widely at a level appropriate to their skills and to gain new understanding of a book through shared activities and discussions. Many teachers find different ways to use LEAP with students of all ability levels.

For the younger students

There are many titles of interest to younger children who are just beginning to develop independence in reading. These LEAP packets include games, drawings and puzzles, as well as drama, writing, and

math activities, which increase the pleasure these young readers experience from books and help them gain confidence in their emerging skills.

For students in the upper grades

When students become proficient in skills and read with more ease, they often lose interest in reading for pleasure. The golden age for helping children to cultivate a love of reading is at the time when they emerge as independent readers and before the pressure of adolescence becomes all-absorbing. The LEAP packets for these students are designed to encourage reading for pleasure. They provide opportunities for students to respond to suggestions for art, drama, and writing; to solve word and concept puzzles; to compare characters and ideas in the books; and to discuss the books together.

Using LEAP

LEAP is designed for use at intervals during the school year when a group of students needs a breather, a time to enjoy reading a good book and sharing that experience. Teachers sometimes find that time requirements for the program differ, depending upon the student level, the type of classroom activities going on at the time LEAP is introduced, and the nature of the chosen book.



sundance

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

As a child, Paula Danziger lived on a farm in Pennsylvania. Even though she lived close to nature, Paula spent most of her time reading books. When she got older, Paula was a nanny for a famous poet. She dedicated her first book, *The Cat Ate My Gymsuit*, to him. To whom would you dedicate your first book?

WORDS TO KNOW

Some big words are used in *Amber Brown Is Not a Crayon*. Read the definitions of the words below. Then fill in the sentences that follow with the correct word.

If you say something in a *sarcastic* way, you say it in a way that hurts a person's feelings.

Tom sounded *sarcastic* when he told me I looked nice.

A *knapsack* is a kind of backpack.

I filled my *knapsack* with books.

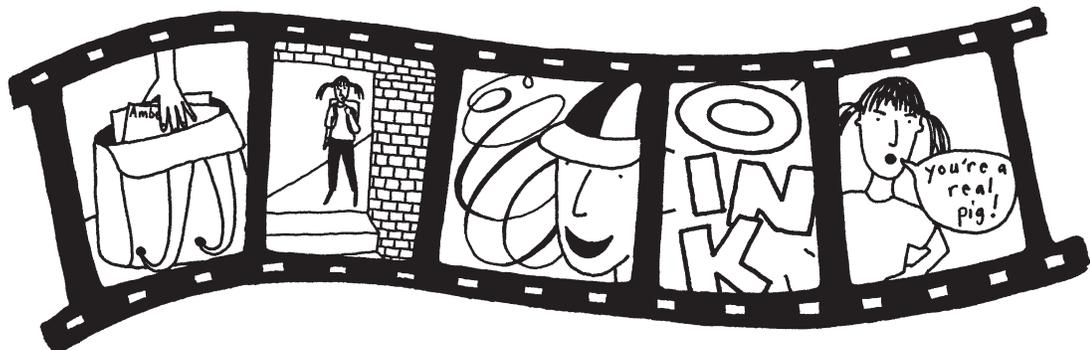
A *cyclone* is like a tornado.

The *cyclone* carried away the barn.

Obnoxious means rude and annoying.

My little brother is *obnoxious* when he slurps his soup.

Amber put her homework in her _____ and started to walk home. Just before she hopped off the step, a boy came zooming by like a _____. He made an _____ pig sound as he passed Amber. Amber answered back with a _____ remark.

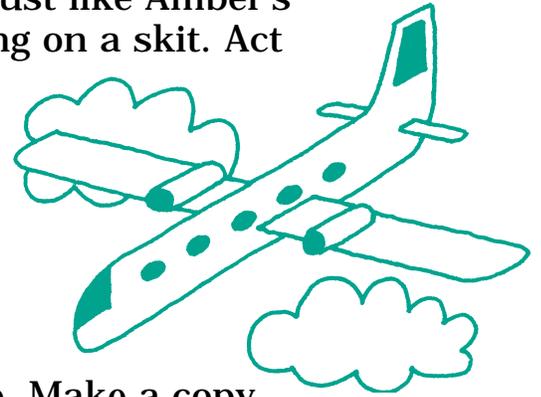


TAKE A TRIP

You and your friends can “fly” to China just like Amber’s class did. Follow the directions for putting on a skit. Act out how Amber’s class visited China.

Directions

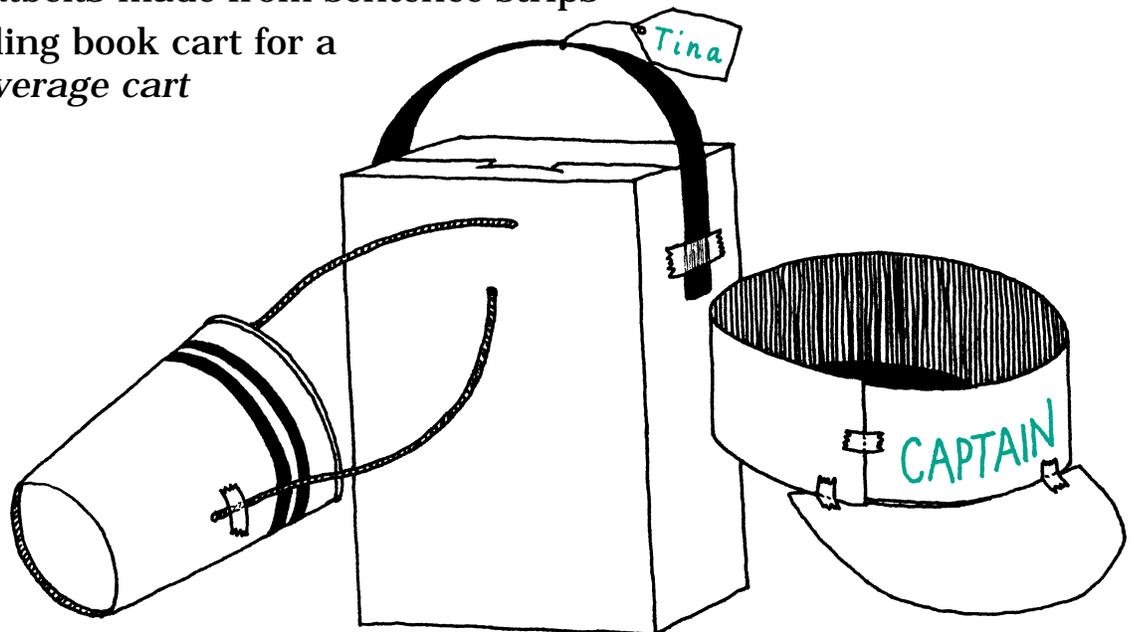
- Reread Chapter 1 for ideas about what to do.
- Choose a pilot, co-pilot, flight attendants, and passengers.
- Write an article for *In Flight* magazine. Make a copy of the article for each passenger.
- Line up chairs to look like the inside of a plane.
- Make boarding tickets and passports for passengers.
- Practice your skit.
- Perform your skit for the class.



Props

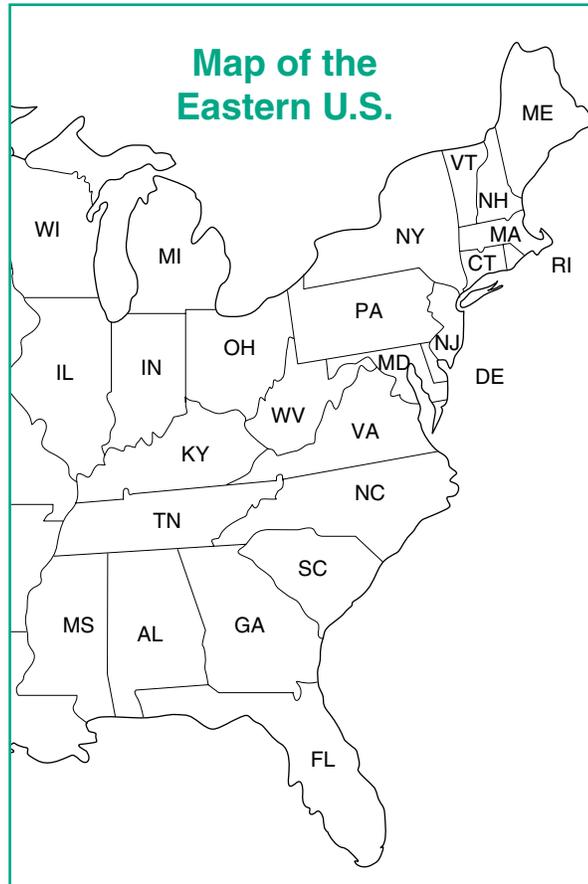
To make your skit more realistic, make and use props. Some prop ideas are listed below. If you wish, you can make other props.

- carry-on *luggage* made from boxes with paper handles
- paper *wings* and a *captain’s hat* for the pilot and co-pilot
- file folders taped to chair backs for *magazine racks*
- plastic cups and yarn for *oxygen masks*
- *seatbelts* made from sentence strips
- rolling book cart for a *beverage cart*



THE SHORTEST DISTANCE

Justin flew from New Jersey to Alabama using the shortest route. On the map, color the states that Justin flew over. (Hint: You should color six states.)



Write the name of each state you colored. Then write the name of the state's capital. Read the example to get started.

State

New Jersey

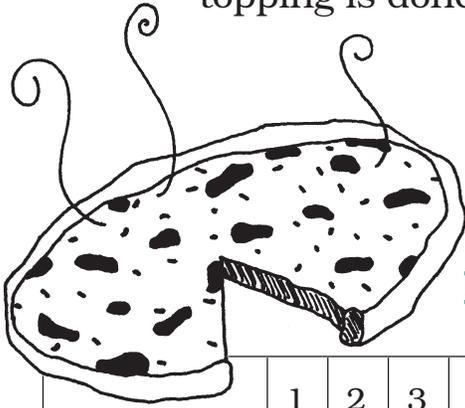
Capital

Trenton

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

PIZZA GRAPH

Amber and Justin like pizza with extra cheese, but **NO** anchovies. Ask several people which of the following pizza toppings they like the best: sausage, pepperoni, mushrooms, green peppers, olives, extra cheese. Everyone is allowed 1 vote. Keep a tally of the votes. To show the voting results, color the bar graph. An example for one topping is done for you. It shows 4 people voting for anchovies.



Favorite Pizza Toppings

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Example: anchovies																				
sausage																				
pepperoni																				
mushrooms																				
green peppers																				
olives																				
extra cheese																				