



LEAPER LANE RUGBY LEAGUE ROOKIE

Stephen Measday & Paul 'Sirro' Sironen
Jane Curry Publishing

TEACHER'S NOTES

This is essentially a story about sport and relationships. This allows for some broad discussions and some writing exercises based on both of these areas.

WRITING STYLE:

The story is written as a first person narration.

- 1) What are the advantages of writing in the first person when telling a personal story like this? (Compared to descriptive style in the third person.)

The authors believe that first person narration is the perfect way to tell a story like Leaper Lane 'through the eyes' of the main character. It gives an immediate sense of how Leaper feels – and his reactions to what occurs around him, both in his family, at school, and on the rugby league field.

Writing exercise:

Write about your favourite sport.

- a) Write it as a news report on a game or personality.
- b) Write it as a creative story in either the first person or third person. Compare and discuss the differences in the writing techniques that are needed for both these styles.

RELATIONSHIPS:

Leaper Lane lives in a situation that society often calls 'a single parent family'.

- 1) How does Leaper cope with this situation?
- 2) What's his relationship like with his father? And with his mother?
- 3) How does Leaper try to get his mother and father 'back together'?
- 4) What's his relationship like with the other main characters in the book? i.e. Tania, Savva Loy, Legga Lamb, Ken Woodley and his teacher, Miss Simmons.

Writing Exercise:

Write about your own relationship with a relative or friend i.e. your mother, father, grandparent, best friend. What makes it special? What are your differences, what do you have in common?

SPORT:

Leaper Lane grows up in Melbourne, where he plays AFL, then he moves to Sydney where he gets interested in rugby league.

- 1) What do we know about how Leaper played AFL? What skills make him useful as a rugby league player?
- 2) Why is his relationship with his father important in the way that Leaper approaches his involvement in sport?
- 3) What are the differences between AFL and NRL?

Writing/Project Exercise:

- 1) What are the main national sports that Australians are interested in? Study and compare two different sports – i.e. football and hockey. Bowls and golf. Swimming and netball. Differences in the national codes played by men and women? What is Australia's true national sport – or are there many?

And/or:

- 2) Study an AFL club and an NRL club i.e. Sydney Swans and the Wests Tigers. Brisbane Lions and the Broncos. What are the differences? Similarities? Who are their supporters and what do they like about the game?

Details on Stephen Measday and his school talk
bookings can be found at www.laterallearning.com. Lateral Learning: ph: (02) 9960 4844.