



Teaching Notes: *Leaping Lola*

Written by Tracey Hawkins
Illustrated by Anil Tortop
Published by New Frontier Publishing

SYNOPSIS

Lola loves to dance and is practicing hard for the Black and White Ball. However, there is one problem: Lola is a brown Jersey cow, not a black and white cow. Can a clever disguise help Lola dance the night away at the ball?

AUTHOR BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Tracey is an author of children's fiction books, non-fiction books and adult works. After graduating from University, Tracey began her working life as a policewoman before later becoming a writer. While raising her family she unexpectedly fell in love with creating books for her children. They even got to star in many as wonderful, lovable characters.

As a child Tracey loved to read and grew up on a diet of mystery and adventure novels, and lots of cheese. She was an avid reader and lived vicariously through the Enid Blyton adventures of **The Secret Seven** and **Famous Five**.

As an adult Tracey creates and writes books based on the many things in life that she sees and experiences, both at home and through her travels around the world.

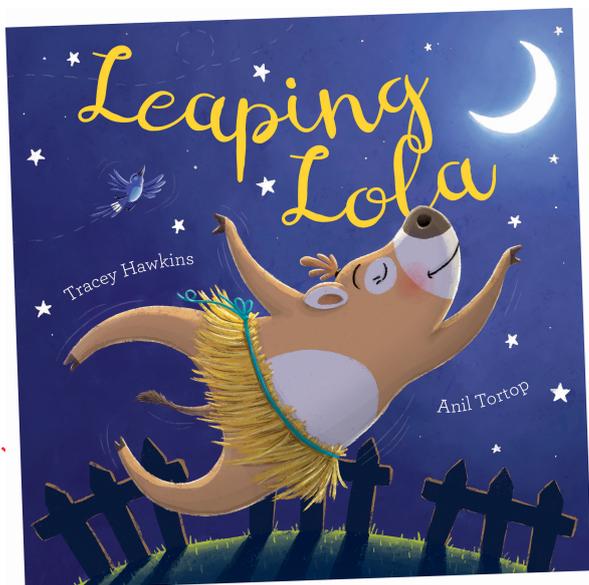
ILLUSTRATOR BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Anil Tortop was born and raised in Turkey. She moved to Australia in early 2011 and has been trying to get used to the local eight-legged house intruders and slithering visitors to her garden ever since. Anil also works as an animator and character/concept designer, but has been called away from this affair as her relationship with children's books becomes more serious. Nowadays, she lives with her husband in Brisbane.

EDUCATIONAL APPLICABILITY

Leaping Lola is a book which encourages children to follow their passion while exploring key themes such as inclusivity, family and friendship. It also teaches children the vital importance of being true to yourself.





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DISCUSSION TOPICS

Before and during reading the book

1. Introduce **Leaping Lola** to the children and ask them what they think the story might be about. What do they think about Lola?
2. Explain the concept of alliteration to them and ask what they think of the title.
3. Have the children ever been to a farm? Have they seen a cow or a pig or a chicken in real life?
4. Show the children the first page and ask them to describe what the animals are doing.
5. Why is Lola not allowed to go to the Black and White Ball? Do they think the reason is fair?

After reading the book

1. What did they think of the story? Which was their favourite part and why?
2. Who was their favourite character and why?
3. Do they like dancing? Have they ever danced like Lola?
4. Have they ever been to or would they like to go to a ball?

Differences Between a Jersey Cow and a Holstein Cow

Holstein Cow	Jersey Cow
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Originated from the Netherlands. • Are black with white patches or white with black patches. • Holstein cows are bigger and usually 580 kg. • Produce more milk. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Originated from the Channel Islands. • Jersey cows are reddish-brown in colour. • Jersey cows are smaller, usually between 350 kg and 550 kg. • Produce less milk.



ACTIVITIES

Animal Charades

Fold the papers and place them in a hat. Have the children pick out a paper and, after helping them read the card, ask if they can act out that character. They are allowed to make the sound of the animal but not use any words. As such, you can introduce the children to the idea of onomatopoeia.

They get one point for guessing the animal correctly, an a bonus point if they can specify which character from **Leaping Lola** it is.

Animals

- Lola (a Jersey cow)
- Pearl (a pig)
- Clarissa (a Jersey cow and Lola's mum)
- The prize-winning bull
- A duck
- A sheep
- A rooster
- A bird

Musical Statues

A classic that works really well with this book! Explain the rules to the children, they can dance while the music is playing but have to freeze once it stops.



Help Pearl design a new ball outfit for Lola!

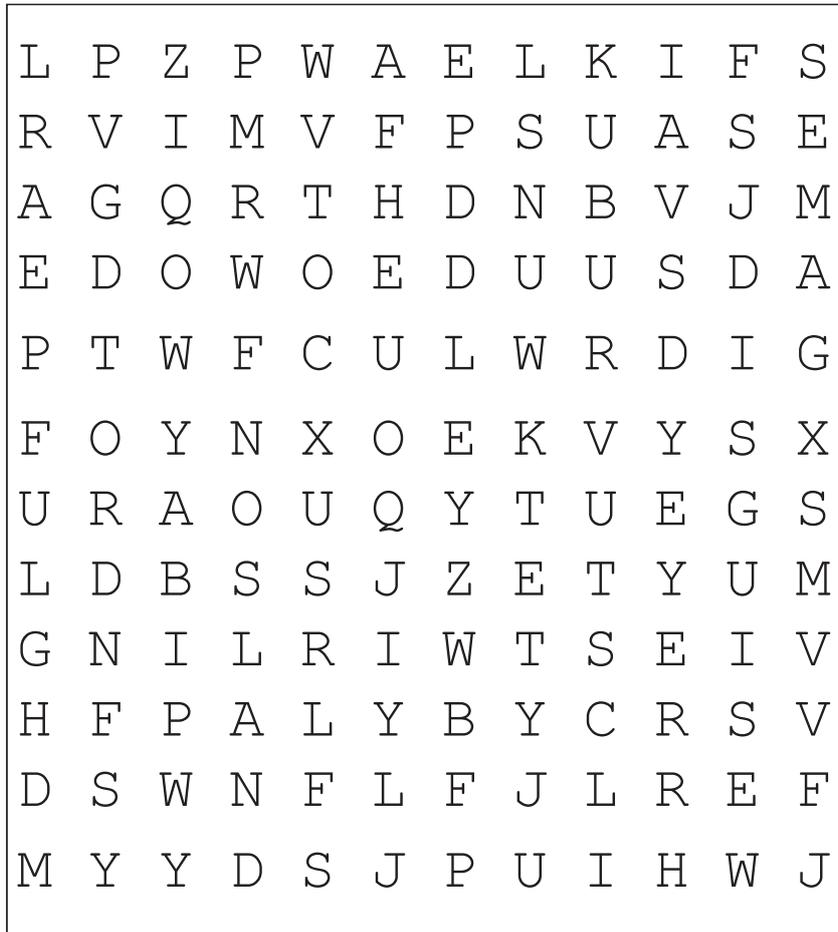


COLLAGE ACTIVITY

Instead of drawing, why not collect and use natural materials such as leaves, twigs and flowers to create Lola's new ball outfit?



Leaping Lola Word Search



Find these words:

- Jersey
- Dance
- Twirling
- Pearl
- Disguise
- Pirouette
- Fabulous



Leaping Lola Word Search Solution

L	P	Z	P	W	A	E	L	K	I	F	S
R	V	I	M	V	F	P	S	U	A	S	E
A	G	Q	R	T	H	D	N	B	V	J	M
E	D	O	W	O	E	D	U	U	S	D	A
P	T	W	F	C	U	L	W	R	D	I	G
F	O	Y	N	X	O	E	K	V	Y	S	X
U	R	A	O	U	Q	Y	T	U	E	G	S
L	D	B	S	S	J	Z	E	T	Y	U	M
G	N	I	L	R	I	W	T	S	E	I	V
H	F	P	A	L	Y	B	Y	C	R	S	V
D	S	W	N	F	L	F	J	L	R	E	F
M	Y	Y	D	S	J	P	U	I	H	W	J



Wooden Spoon Pig Craft

What you need:

- Wooden spoon
- Pink buttons with two holes (or you could draw the snout with a black marker)
- Wiggle eye stickers
- Pink pipe cleaner
- Scissors
- Pink paper
- Pink paint
- Black marker
- Glue

Instructions:

1. Start by painting the wooden spoon pink. Let the paint dry completely and then stick on two wiggle eye stickers.
2. Add a generous amount of glue to the middle of the spoon head and stick on the button.
3. Cut two ears out of pink paper. Glue them onto the back of the head.
4. Draw the mouth with a black marker.
5. Wrap the pipe cleaner around the wooden spoon to make little pig hands.
6. The end result should look like this:



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wooden-spoon-pig-craft/](https://www.easypeasyandfun.com/wooden-spoon-pig-craft/)