

BOW VALLEY

C O L L E G E



Language Experience in the 21st Century: Making Digital Reading Materials for and with LIFE Learners

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Topics

- LIFE learners
- the Language Experience Approach
- paper-based booklets in the LIFE classroom
- digital “books” in the LIFE classroom
- the advantages of digital books
- making a digital book
- considerations

LIFE Learners

LIFE learners are adults who are learning to speak English at the same time as they are learning to read and write for the first time.

They are not yet fully able to use reading to learn new language, strategies, and concepts. They are, instead, learning to read what they already know orally and experientially.

Some Characteristics of LIFE

- learn by doing/watching/participating
- social/communal learners
- oral/kinaesthetic learners
- limited understanding of what types of meaning text can convey
- need for concept development – both cultural AND educational
- difficulty using print to learn
- self-referenced
- may have difficulties with patterns, categories, analysis
- require a great deal of teacher support
- require explicit strategy instruction

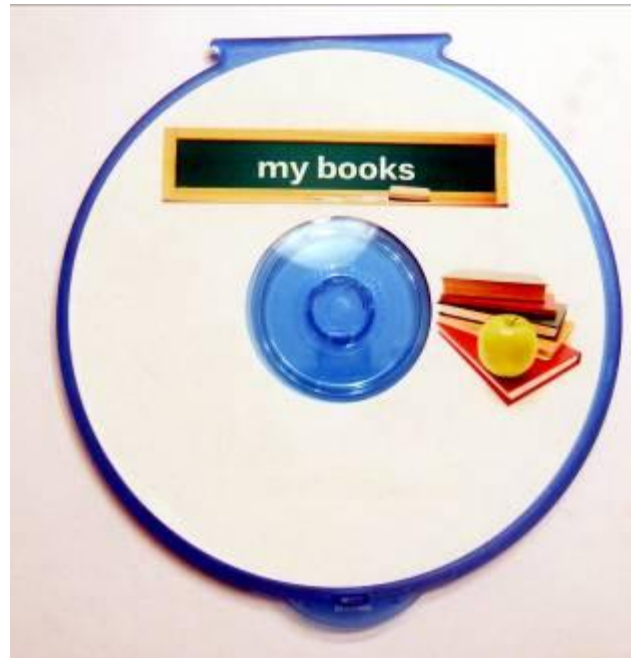
Language Experience Approach

The language experience approach teaches learners that text is not mysterious. It teaches that reading is just listening on paper. Writing is just speaking on paper.

Paper-Based Teacher/Student Made Books



Digital Teacher/Student Made Books



Sample Digital Book: The Market



Sample Digital Book: Everybody's Sick

Everybody is
Sick Today



Abdul has a backache.



Abeba has a headache.



Video: Writing the Text as a Class



Video: Reading the Book in Class



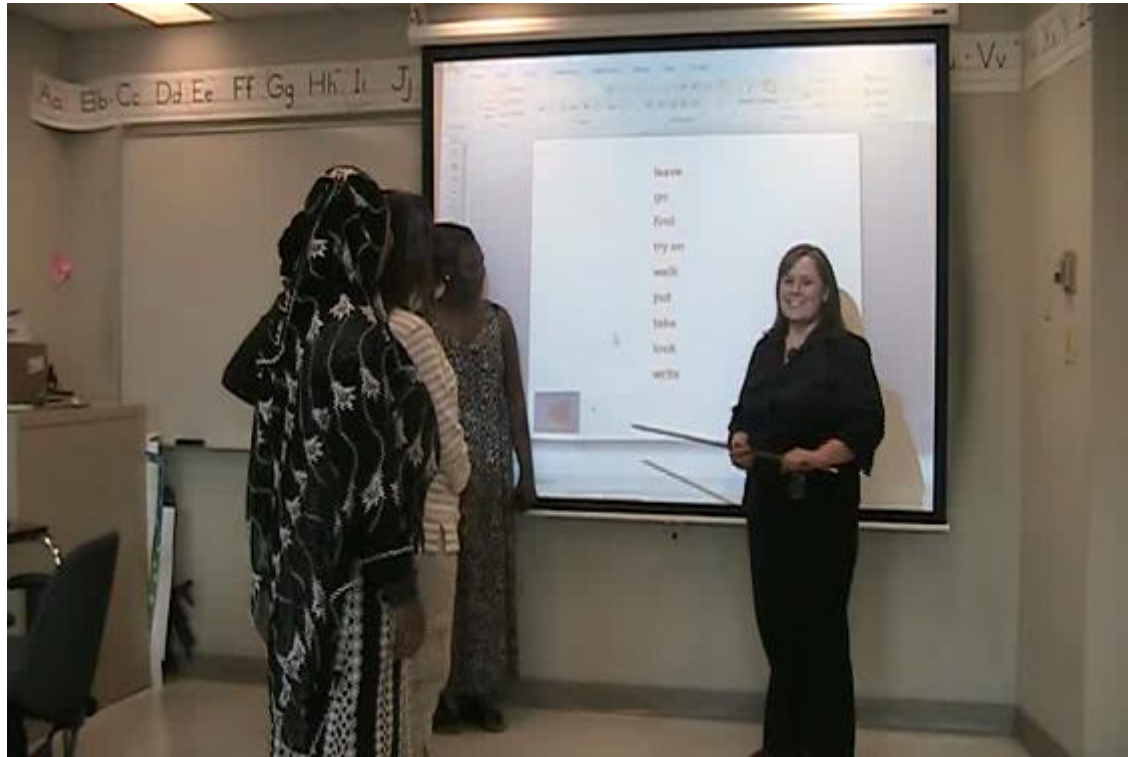
Video: Teaching Reading Strategies



Video: Practicing New Vocabulary



Video: Reading New Vocabulary



Independent Reading

- pair work in the computer lab
- at the library/at home



Advantages of Digital Materials

- project & read as a class in full colour
- very inexpensive
- immediate & fast to produce
- full colour graphics
- acquisition of technological skills
- audio, video, animation capability
- independent reading

Making a Digital Book

- digital camera
- USB cable
- presentation software (like Power Point™)
- template

Considerations

- compatibility/file format
- imbedding audio/video files
- stand-alone files vs. publishing to the web
- privacy issues

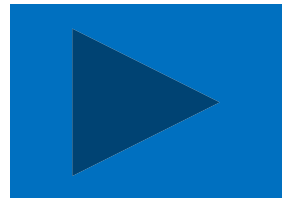


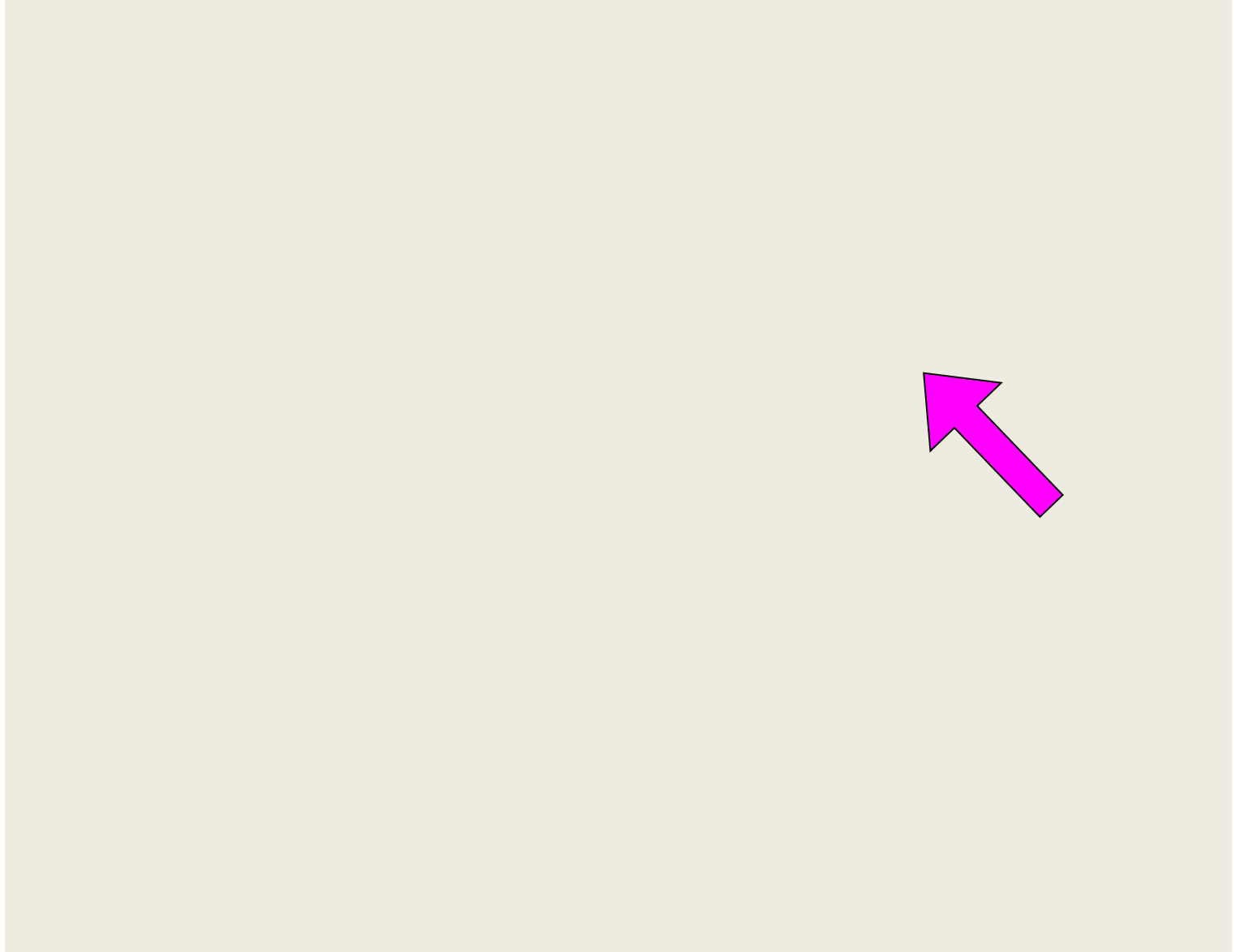
Thank You!

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Title of Book





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