

VIBE ACTIVITIES

Vibe School – Leah Purcell : A love for learning page 26

ViBe SchOOl

A love for learning

How a short story (and her teacher's help) sparked Leah Purcell's career.



“It doesn't matter how old you are, you can still learn. I'm learning every day. I now want all children and parents to realise the effort they put in now will pay them back in bucketloads – not always tomorrow, but maybe the next day, or even years down the track.”

the back fence, to one who turned up at 8.30am every morning eager to learn.

“I'd found something I was good at,” says Leah. “At home I was surrounded by people who could tell a great yarn and deliver a punchline better than any famous comedian... it came from centuries of oral tradition.”

While Leah loved storytelling, the fact that she hadn't always applied herself to other aspects of her education is something she said she now regrets.

The actress, writer and director said she sometimes struggles with her craft. “I missed a lot of the basics to build on. It's made life a little harder.

“I've panicked and put unnecessary stress on myself at auditions because I've been asked to do a cold-read – to read bits of a script on the spot. I wouldn't know how to pronounce a word or what it might mean,” she says.

Leah would sometimes take hours to look through her lines at home with a dictionary close to hand before fronting casting agents.

“I want to live a fulfilling life, so I've had to put in the hard yards,” she says.

“It doesn't matter how old you are, you can still learn. I'm learning every day. I now want all children and parents to realise the effort they put in now will pay them back in bucketloads – not always tomorrow, but maybe the next day, or even years down the track.

“Every day does count towards a happier future, and I urge parents to send their children to school every day, on time, so they can have a great life and be the best person that they can be.”

ACTRESS LEAH PURCELL REMEMBERS THE FIRST DAY THAT SCHOOL FINALLY MADE SENSE TO HER. SHE HAD WRITTEN A STORY FOR HER YEAR 7 TEACHER AND IT CAME BACK COVERED IN RED INK WITH A BIG “SEE ME” SCRAWLED ACROSS THE PAGE.

Leah thought she was in trouble, but when she fronted her teacher at the end of the day, she was asked to enter her work into a Murgon Lions Rotary Writing Competition.

“I asked ‘Why?’ It was full of spelling and grammar mistakes,” recalls Leah.

“It's a great story,” her teacher replied. “I'll help you with the other stuff. You're a great storyteller.”

From that day on, Leah went from being a child who walked through the front gate at school and straight over

Leah Purcell is a successful actor, writer and director. She was inspired to keep making an effort at school when her teacher encouraged her to enter one of her stories in a competition.

Leah's advice is to attend school every day and be ready to learn as much as you can.

ACTIVITY 1

SCHOOL



- 1** What are your favourite things about going to school?
Write two or three sentences to say why you like them.



My favourite things about school are

I like going to school because

GOING TO SCHOOL RAP



1

It is time for school; it is time for fun.
It's a time for learning for everyone.
So, sit down; take a seat.
We are in for a treat.
It is time for school to start.

It is time for school to start.
We'll do reading, maths and art.
We'll all learn to be so smart.
It is time for school.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with ten horizontal blue lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a template for handwriting practice or note-taking. There is no text or other markings on the paper.

ACTIVITY 3

BUILDING READING SKILLS

You can build your reading skills by

- skimming and scanning for information
- reading headings, text boxes and pictures
- reading for meaning
- making connections between the text and your world.

There are three levels of comprehension questions:

Literal	The answer is located in one sentence in the text.
Inferred	You need to make links between sentences and graphics (such as illustrations, maps and tables) and what you already know.
Applied	The answer is in your background knowledge, what you already know or feel.

1 TRUE or FALSE? Circle the correct answer. (literal)

Circle the correct answer.

Leah is an actor, writer and director.	TRUE	FALSE
Leah thought she was in trouble when her teacher asked to see her.	TRUE	FALSE
Her teacher told her she was a great painter.	TRUE	FALSE
Leah always found reading and writing easy.	TRUE	FALSE

2 Leah advises, "The effort you put in now will repay you in bucketloads later." What does she mean by this? (inferred)

Write your answer on the lines.

3 According to the text, how did Leah's attitude to school change after she found that she was good at writing stories? (inferred)



ACTIVITY 4

CLOZE PASSAGE

1 Fill in the gaps using words from the **Word Box** below.

"It doesn't matter how _____ you are, you can still _____ .

I'm _____ every day. Every day _____ towards

a happier _____ , and I urge parents to send their

_____ to school every day, on time, so they can have

a great _____ and be the best _____ that they can be,"

advises Leah Purcell.

Word Box

future life counts old children person learning learn

Place the words from the **Word Box** in ABC order.

ACTIVITY 5

LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS – SPELLING

- 1** The spelling mistakes in these sentences have been underlined.
Write the correct spelling for each word in the box.



Leah loves writting stories.

There were marks skorled all over the page.

She went strait over the back fence.

- 2** Each sentence has one word that is incorrect.
Write the correct spelling of the word in the box.

There is a great tradishon of storytelling in her family.

She didn't know what words mite mean.

She is surounded by great storytellers.



- 3** Circle the misspelt words below and rewrite them correctly.

sumtimes struggles education directer acter writer

Place the six words in ABC order.
