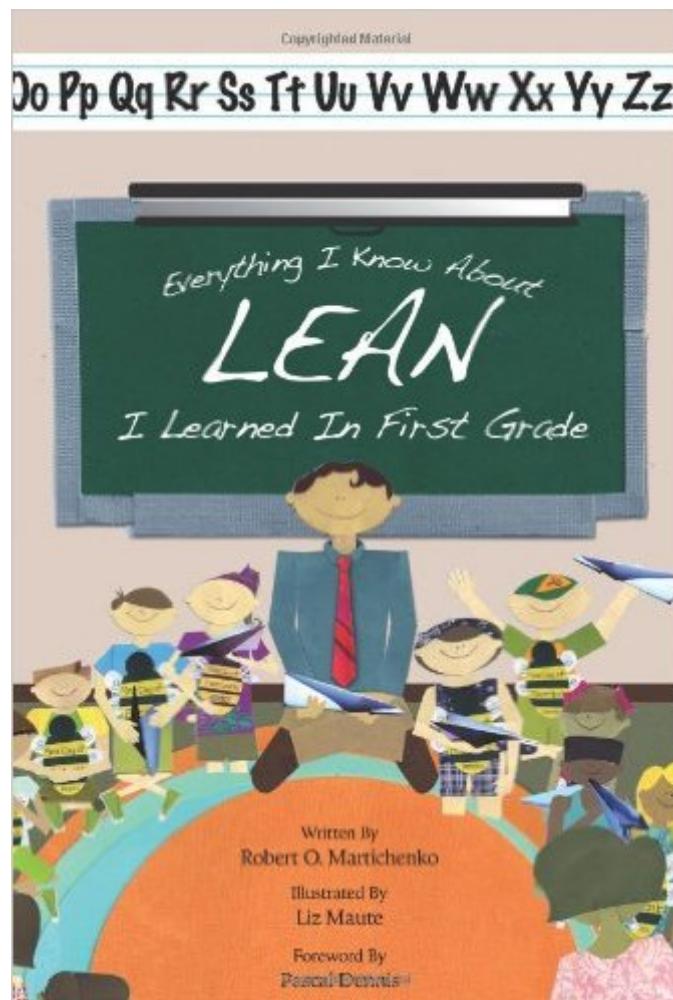


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# Everything I Know About Lean I Learned In First Grade



## **Synopsis**

Every lean practitioner occasionally wishes for a simple, fun, and quick-read introduction to lean thinking to give acquaintances, associates, and family members - even to our kids. If lean thinking often entails unlearning a plethora of bad habits, wouldn't it better if we learned better thinking - and habits - from the beginning? Everything I Know About Lean I Learned in First Grade is just that sort of book. It brings lean back to its original simplicity by showing how lean is alive in a first grade classroom. The book connects common lean tools to the broader lean journey, shows how to identify and eliminate waste, and aids the reader in seeing lean for what it truly is: a way to create a learning and problem-solving culture. Written to educate the entire organization on the fundamentals of lean thinking, this is the perfect source to engage all team members at all levels of an organization. Originally self-published in 2008, LEI is proud to re-issue this book and make it available to the broader lean community.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This is a unique and compelling book about the Lean methodology. It's written from the perspective of the author visiting his daughter's 1st grade class and discovering methods for teaching and managing the classroom that seem very similar to the Toyota Production System. This is a great book for introducing people to Lean -- maybe particularly for those outside of traditional manufacturing settings. My mom, an elementary school teacher, found it a good read in terms of ideas that she would want to see in her school. But that's not the primary intent of the book. It shows that Lean methods and concepts are pretty universal and can be applied in any setting. It shows

that Lean helps get the most out of everyone's ability and is not a "mean" cost-cutting methodology or anything to be afraid of, which is true of Lean if it's implemented properly. Very good book. Fun for those who already know Lean, instructive for those who are new to Lean.

I agree with the author that our schools are some of the best examples of 'Lean' organizations in existence in America and that they are the organizations that our big companies should look to first for basic process improvement ideas before chasing the latest, expensive, often technically-complex, solution trend. The author walks through his daughter's first day in First Grade and employs an owl to help convey how many well-executed lean principles he sees in place in the school environment that were fashioned out of necessity. This book succeeds in bringing back a concept and process -'leaning' an organization to make it more efficient and effective- from the unnecessary complexity often foisted upon it by the gurus and consultants to the simplicity at its roots, and what better way than through the experience that is the first day of First Grade. If you want yourself, your direct reports or anyone in your organization to quickly grasp what 'leaning' an organization means through simple but real-life examples, I would recommend this be the first book on your Lean Six Sigma reading list.

Great Book! We used this at my workplace to become more efficient and analyze our internal processes. At first I thought the book was a waste of my time but after reading it there are a lot of items I have implemented into my daily work life.

It was OK ... and it set the stage for reading more detailed and professional books, but it was a start. Might be good to give to employees that don't want to get onboard, or use some of the content if you're going to do a presentation to your staff to get them to understand the basics.

If you are just starting out with LEAN this is the first book everybody should read. Simple and gets the process across that beginners can understand. It is a change in thinking and this book with its simple comparisons with a first grade teacher and her class is fantastic. I highly recommend this book to beginners of the LEAN process.

A lean coach's visit to his daughter's first day of first grade provides the structure for a broad survey of the benefits of adopting a Lean culture, whether it is consciously known as Lean, or not. Adopting a Lean culture plays itself out in a variety of ways within this elementary school, but more important

than the specific ways in which it manifests itself, are the principles behind it.

I am the spouse of a teacher and I must admit I didn't realize how advanced their class management techniques really were. This is a great little book and if you're willing to stop for a moment and reflect on what the author is saying, you just might learn something.

This book provides a simple to understand introduction to the basic concepts of Lean. We are currently implementing a nontraditional workflow and it helps to understand the value of the individual steps we are taking.

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