

Daniel Feliciano

Game Analysis: A La Limón

I learned about this game from my mother, who played it when she was a little girl.

A La Limón is a game played by young children in Puerto Rico. There is no set number of people who can play the game but you need at least five people to play it, but ideally you have at least seven. The game is perfect for playing at recess or after school where you have large groups of children who want to pass the time.

Two of the players stand facing each other, holding the other person's hands and lifting them up into the air in order to allow the other children to pass through under them. These two children are the **trap** (not the "official term but it works for our purposes). All the other children are the players in the game.

The game starts with the children who are the trap start singing the song "A La Limón". During the song, each of the players pass under the arms of the trap one after another until the song ends.

The Rules are as follows:

- 1.) Two people stand facing each other and hold hands to become the trap.
- 2.) All other children line up next to the trap.
- 3.) The children who form the trap raise their arms and start singing the following:

*A la limón
Que se rompió la fuente*

*A la limón
La llevan a enerrar*

*Los de alant corren mucho
Y los de atrás, se quedarán
Se quedarán, se quedarán*

- 4.) During the song, all the players pass under the arms of the trap one by one.
- 5.) Each child returns to the end of the line after passing through the trap.
- 6.) When the song ends, the children who are the trap bring their arms down on whoever is passing through at the time, trapping him or her.
- 7.) The person who gets caught by the trap is now out of the game.
- 8.) Play continues until only one person is left. That person is the winner of the game.

In addition to the above rules, players aren't allowed to push each other in the line in order to speed up how quickly it moves, and when it's a player's turn to pass through he or she **MUST** do so and not just wait (though how quickly they move through is completely up to the player).

A La Limón is a fairly simple and straightforward game experience. The one strategy of the game would be to recognize the length and words of the song and know how much time the player has until the song ends to avoid being caught by the trap. However the children acting as the trap also have a strategy as well, as they can change how quickly or slowly they sing the song in order to throw off the timing of the other players. Ultimately it's difficult to say who gets the more rewarding experience out of the game. On the one hand those who are passing through the trap get to experience the excitement of having to go through quickly in order to avoid getting caught, and even being the one to get caught can be exciting. And then again, the players who act as the trap have the fun of controlling the pace of the game and have the fun of being the ones to trap the other players and take them out of the game. And the best part is that once the game is over it's easy to play it again, this time with different people acting as the trap, and there's no actual guarantee that the winner will be the same each time.