



## **SPARK**

# **Diary of a Tasty Food**

**Grades 3–5**

**Type**

**Poetry**

In this Spark, students will pretend to be their favorite food and write about what that food would do on an average day.

## **What Your Students Will Learn**

Students will learn about personification by putting themselves in the shoes of their favorite food.

## **What You Will Need**

- Diary of a Tasty Food—Handout
  - 1 copy per student

## **What You Will Do**

This Spark was inspired by 826 New Orleans’ annual Pizza Poetry Day. Since 2014, 826 New Orleans has celebrated National Poetry Month, and the power of youth voices, by publishing student poems on pizza boxes for delivery across the city. You can learn more about Pizza Poetry Day on 826 New Orleans’ [website](#).

Have you ever wondered what a taco’s favorite school subject is—or maybe what ?? (gimbap) would want for breakfast? Imagine you wake up one day, and you have become your favorite food.

## **STEP 1**

Explain that a diary entry is a summary of the author’s daily activities, or a collection of their personal thoughts. Keeping a diary is kind of like making a time capsule—you have a way to access your feelings or activities from a specific time in your life. Below is an example to share with students:

3/12/2022

*Dear Diary,*

*Today was such a fun day! Me and my cousin Jordan got to spend the whole day together. We went to our favorite restaurant for breakfast, and they let me order my favorite food which is pancakes. I love pancakes because you get to cover them with maple syrup! After we finished breakfast, we went to the Science Museum. I've never been there before, but I love science. We got to run around this huge place and look at fossils and rocks and there was even a huuuungous astronaut statue in the middle of the museum. It was really cool. After the museum, we were both really tired, so we went back to my house. They ordered us pizza (without mushrooms yay!), and we watched movies until we fell asleep. I was sad the next morning when they had to leave. I cried because I won't get to see them again for a while.*

What do they notice about the way a diary entry is written?

- A diary entry is written in the first-person, using “I,” “me,” and “my.”
- The date is on the top of the entry.
- It can be written the way you speak. Because a diary is written just for you, you don't need to impress anyone.
- It can start with “Dear Diary,” but it doesn't have to. Including a salutation might help you feel like you are writing a letter to a friend.

Now that students are familiar with diary entries, they will pretend that they are their favorite food and write a diary entry about a day-in-the-life of that food. This technique is called *personification*, which is when human qualities are given to nonhuman objects.

Students can use page 1 of the [Diary of a Tasty Food—Handout](#) to brainstorm ideas about their favorite food. They can give their favorite food a unique voice (does this food have a word they say all the time?), hobbies, and likes or dislikes that are unique to it!

Each circle of the graphic organizer can represent a different characteristic. Students get to choose. They can fill in the circles with different human characteristics that they envision their food having.

## **STEP 2**

After they have brainstormed ideas about their favorite food, students will use page 2 of the handout to write a diary entry from their favorite food's perspective. They should use the characteristics they brainstormed to write the diary entry.

## **STEP 3**

Next, read the Mentor Text on page 3 of the handout together. What do they notice about this poem?

- It uses personification to give the food human qualities
- It does not take the form of a diary entry, but your poem could!
- It tells the reader what kind of food it is

Students will transform their diary entry into a poem that introduces their favorite food, like the Mentor Text. If students get stuck on how to start, they can use one of the prompts below:

- The first line can be “I am...” like in the Mentor Text
- Describe what your favorite food sees the moment it wakes up
- Take the diary entry and add in different line breaks to make it read like a poem
- If the food has a word or a phrase that it says a lot, start each line of your poem with that word or phrase.