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SPARK

Mystery Food Poems

Grades 3–5

Type

Poetry

In this Spark, students will write a poem that engages the reader in answering the question: Can you guess this food?

What Your Students Will Learn

Students will practice writing with the five senses to describe their favorite food.

What You Will Need

- Mystery Food Poem—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](#).

STEP 1

First, students will read the mentor text on page 1 of [Mystery Food Poem—Handout](#). What do they notice about this poem?

- What kinds of clues does the writer leave the reader?
- What do the clues describe?
- What do they think the mystery food is?

STEP 2

Next, students will use page 2 of the handout to brainstorm ideas for their own Mystery Foods poem. They will choose a food they know really well—a food they can taste when it’s not in their mouth, a food that holds strong memories, or even a food they eat every day—and pretend they are describing it to someone who has never had this food before.

STEP 3

Last, students will turn their sensory descriptions of the food into a poem that leaves clues for the reader—their goal is to help the reader picture the food they are describing! Give them the phrase “My food is…” to help get them started.