My Tastebuds Are Having a Tropical Party
DEDICATION

We dedicate this book to the teachers and staff at Bessie Carmichael Elementary School, who nourish their students with encouragement and excitement for learning.
My Tastebuds Are Having a Tropical Party

Flavorful Odes by Fourth Graders from Bessie Carmichael Elementary School
# Table of Contents

**Mr. Halili’s Class**

You Stretch My Tastebuds

William Daos, Jr.  
Sushi Is Yummy, Yummy .................................................. 2

Benjamin Geronimo  
The Red, Jumpy, Jolty, Juicy Apple ...................................... 4

Faith Hale Gordon  
Meh Fav FOOD! ................................................................. 5

Zakariyah Harrag  
Mango .......................................................... 7

Leviticus Hornes  
Dat Carrot .......................................................... 9

Arabella Jimenez  
Doki Doki Mango Club ................................................. 11

Arsh Khan  
Pizza .......................................................... 13

Carla Shayne Paraiso  
Dancing Fishy Underwater ............................................. 14
Jodi Pestrana
Campfire of Ramen

Aoife Roceline Pulido
The Rarest Fruit in the Universe

Mary Salonga
Nacho Shake Queso

Joaquin Miguel Santos
The Titanic Book

Liana Blanche Sonza
Delicious Fish

Layla Tiffanie Sunga
Facts About Blueberries

Elix Russel Tactay
Noodles

Natalie Teves
The Turkeys Are Coming

Rengee Rose Tuazon
Round Planet

Caryl Vergara
Wild Watermelon

Ja’velle Williams Bobo
Mango

Mark Anthony Zambrano
Mango
Ms. Phillips’ Class

I Would Run Across a River of Crazy Crocodiles to Get You

Aneesah Ahmad
Green Paradise

40

Allison Briceno
Juicy Fruit

42

Emmaleigh Butler
I Love Strawberry

44

Deshon Grayson, Jr.
Delicious Popcorn

46

Ethan Ho
My Noodles

48

Nico Johnson
Mango

50

Joell Macias-Rosendom
Yummy Pretzel

52

Omar McCoy
The Spiciest and Tastiest Food

54

Janelle Miou
Soft Rice

56

Alex Molina Jimenez
Dragonfruit

58

Joshua Pacheco
Green Apples

60
Diego Poot Novelo
The Alien Fruit ............................................................... 55

Adrianna Ramsey
The Best Pineapple .......................................................... 57

Diego Rivera
Perfect Pupusas ................................................................. 58

Sean Richard San
Pears Are So Delightful ....................................................... 60

Allison Torres Giron
Soft as a Squishy ................................................................. 62

Carmen Washington
White as Snow ................................................................. 64

Ms. Popescu’s Class

Your Juice Makes the Whole Planet Swim

Louai Albaadani
Red as a Fire Truck .......................................................... 70

Jaretzy Andrade Lopez
Cherries ................................................................. 72

Lalotoga Asoau-Fu’a
My Favorite Fruit .......................................................... 73
Mhieliza Ednilao
A Salty Mystery

Wala Fara
The Grape Ode...

Lauren Gomez
I Like Mine not so Slimy

Damariea Grayson
Naruto vs. Madara and Watermelon

Maram Jubari
Watermelon as Pink as Patrick

Allison Morales-Lucas
You’re Green and You Fit in the Rainbow

Hailey Phaing
Yellow as the Sun

Jaiden Phonphichith
Golden as a Chain

Evolet Quintal Gongora
SpongeBob Lemonade

Noah Yabut
Watermelon

Haley Zhou
The Crunchy and Chewy Passion Fruit
About the Organizations

826 Valencia 102

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts 105
You Stretch My Tastebuds
Oh sushi,

you roll in my mouth.

Oh sushi, you’re as cold as ice cream.

Oh sushi, you are the best because you can have twenty-one seafood flavorings.

Oh sushi, you are mixed like soup.

Oh sushi, I will munch you until I die.

Oh sushi, you’re tiny as a Lego man.

Oh sushi, I thank you for the yummy food.

The last time that I ate you was with my dad in Tokyo Express.

Oh sushi, I can eat you for twenty-one years.

Oh sushi, you roll in my mouth like a slimy caterpillar.

I remember that my aunt was making you when I was six.
I would rather eat you than ice cream.

Oh sushi, I could marry you until I grew to be 190 years old.
The Red, Jumpy, Jolty, Juicy Apple

Oh apple, you die and explode with sweet juice.

Oh apple, you taste sweet and crunchy.

You feel smooth.

Apple, you are as piney as a pineapple.

People say, “Apple! Apple! Apple! Apple! I want apples.”

Last year, I went to McDonald’s and ate fries with you and a cheeseburger.

You’re such a healthy apple that I ate you and got apple powers.

When the evil plastic straws came, I used my rapid-fire bullet spit power.

You cry when I punch you with my teeth with a crunch.

Oh apple, you are juicy, joyful, and jazzy, with a jolly and jumpy taste.

Oh apples, when my mom buys you, I ask her to slice you with a big sword, and then I eat you when I watch YouTube.
Meh Fau FOOD!

Oh avocado,

you're still healthy and you're plain.

You're good with chips.

You melt in my mouth.

You are plain but still good, and you're sometimes hard and sometimes soft.

Also, you're like a potato.

You are as round as my head and a potato.

Thank you for making me healthy and alive.

Thanks.

Oh avocado, I've eaten you since I was five.

You're so good, and I can dip you in condensed milk.

Everyone claps and does a flip when they see you on the plate.
They say, “DELICIOUS!”

You die in my mouth, but you feel calm.

Oh avocado, you're so delicious I can eat you up in 0.1 seconds.

Also, I can say that you're DELICIOUS!
Mango

Oh mango, you're being the leader.

You are so warm and smooth or rough. You are in the middle.

Mango, you are golden.

Mango, you feel soft.

You look like yellow.

You smell like nothing.

You are sweet as ice cream.

You look delicious.

You are small as a mouse.

Thank you, mango, for being bouncy and being followed.

Mango, you look like a golf ball.

Mango, you don’t float and you’re rough.

Mango, you look like a mouse’s hole.
Mango, you bounce, you laugh, and you float.

Mango, you sound like squash and your juice gets away.

Mango, I will eat you.

You don’t stretch.

Mango, you are nothing.

You look like a rock only.

Mango, I ate you in the Philippines with my family.

Mango, you have a bad day because you’re nothing.

Mango, you are the same size as a circle.

You are healthy and healing.

Mango, you are the same size as supergiant galaxy IC 1101.

You’re round as a gas giant.

I could jump over one thousand mangos.
Oh carrots, you are as crunchy as a cookie, and you are as orange as Annoying Orange.

Oh carrot, I can't grow without you.

I could grow 2,000,000 feet tall.

You are as hard as a rock.

You are as natural as bitter melon and nothing.

Oh carrot, you are as orange as a tiger.

Oh carrot, you are bumpy, bright, and beautiful.

Thank you, carrots.

You made me tall, but you did not let me see through walls.

I eat you plain at lunch.

Every time I bite you, you crunch like crackers, begging to not be eaten.

I only tried you the first time, but I liked you.
I like carrots.

You make me as happy as a sunflower.

I'm going to eat you now, bye!
Oh mango, eating you, I slurp, chomp, and drip your juice.

Inside, you are as yellow as the sun at dawn, and when ripe, you are green as grass.

You are as sweet as a whole day of eating candy.

You are as sweet as cotton candy.

Oh mango, you're moist, mushy, and the most MAGNIFICENT fruit EVER!

Thank you, mango, for making me less cranky.

Your color is so bright that you can replace the sun, and so sweet that I can’t tell the difference between you and the candy.

I was at home with my sister and mom and dad.

I jumped off my seat, “WHAT IS THIS STUFF?”

You are cheerful.
You fly to my tum tum.

You are supportive.

You have been eaten by my family all the time.

It’s a Filipino food. (My family is also Filipino.)

Oh mango, I am certain you are the best because you are EVERYTHING.

You are yummy, yellow, but green when ripe, and sweet AND sour.

You are cold and refreshing.

So sweet, everyone would fight over you.
Pizza

Oh pizza,

you are hot, spicy, and delicious.

Hot as a volcano.

Spicy dish.
Dancing Fishy Underwater

Oh fish,
you're as colorful as a disco ball, but shiny as a VSCO girl.

You're delicious, and you smell fresh and look fresh!

People say once you turn around for one second, the fish starts to wobble and dance.

When you are raw on the inside, you are pink as Patrick Star.

Thank you, fish, for not scaring me with your small, round eyes.

I eat you at dinner, lunch, and holidays.

Oh fish, I can eat you for one second even if you're RAW!

Oh fish, once I put you in the water, and you helped me breathe underwater for a year!

You swim when you go down in my belly.

Oh fish, you're healthy, healing, and huge.

When I eat you, I smile, and we both start to dance.
Oh ramen,

you are amazing because you're easy to make.

Another reason why you are amazing is because you are greasy and yummy.

You taste chewy and smell natural and feel hot and greasy and you look stringy.

You are as stringy as hair.

Thank you, ramen, for making me so full so I don't have to eat all the green.

I remember eating you in Sacramento.

I was with my cousins.

I ate you slowly.

Everyone was quiet.

You spun around my fork as I put you in my mouth.

You splish splash in my mouth, as you go down my throat and splat.
My sister and I love eating you.

We eat you when our parents eat something else.

I can jump all the way to Mars because you taste so delicious.

I smile so big that the sun sees it.
The Rarest Fruit in the Universe

Oh mango,

I know you are amazing by just smelling the sweet scent of you.

Second of all, in just one bite I feel like I'm also 500% sweet as a mango.

You taste very sweet, juicy, soft, chewy, smooth, and refreshing.

Oh mango, you are as sweet as my family that gives me love and care.

Oh mango, you are as yellow as a sunflower.

Thank you, mango, because you're sweet and you don't make me bored.

Once I watched a movie while I was eating you.

I was with my mom at home.

I talked to my mom and said, “I want more mangos!”

You are full of juicy love.
People say that you’re very sweet and people dance in excitement.

We eat you when there's an occasion or event.

Or sometimes just on a normal, perfect day to relax, we'll eat you all day.

Oh mango, you are amazing, attractive, and awesome.

Oh mango, I could eat ten million of you in just one second.
Nacho Shake Queso

Oh whole wheat nacho, you’re so nutritious and so natural.

The great part is that you’re organic and oily whenever I look at your youthful color.

You’re so yummy and eating you is like heaven because without dressing or ranch, you’re still very good, and you could be healthy.

“Come here, darling,” Dad said.

You sing in my belly.

You stretch my taste buds and you smell natural.

You look huggable.

From afar I hear crunching, slurring, gobbling, and munching.

You’re as salty as a salted caramel.
I ran in the kitchen and tried you.

Thank you for being so delicious and great.

“I could die happy.”

I was at home with Dad.

He said, “Here,” and handed me a nacho.

I ate you and I was in heaven.

I felt happy, and I dipped you and you headbanged.

We have a bag of you at home.

You greeted me and said, “Goodbye,” back,

but you went into my toilet to swim.
Oh iceberg lettuce, you are so cold that I have to eat you with a jacket.

You’re so fresh that you chill out.

You’re so foggy and smoky like you’re in a horror movie swamp. (I like horror movies.)

When I eat you, you make a crunch sound.

You’re crunchy as an iceberg from the Titanic movie.

You’re quiet as a secret garden.

You’re crunchy as a taco, and I see lettuce in my taco reminding me of you.

Thank you for making me calm, like I am in a secret garden.

You make the Titanic movie more extreme.

I ate you when I was little as a little ice cube.

I cut you in half, so you won’t be lonely.
Delicious Fish

Oh paksiw, you are as yummy as a cookie.

You are spiky as a needle.

Filipino people would say, “Mmmm, this is so good. Can I have the rest?”

You are as slippery as a soap bar.

You are sweet, salty, and smooth.

You are as spicy as a pepper.

Oh paksiw, you are so good.

I can eat you 152 times a day.

Wait! More.

122 times a minute.

I love to thank you because I don’t get to eat you all the time.

I eat you when my grandma makes you.
Oh paksiw, you look so yummy.

I love to eat you, but you have spikes in your body that I can't eat.

Oh paksiw, every time I see you, I come with joy, and when I'm done with you, I will finally ask for more.

When you are not cooked, you move around and make me laugh.

My grandma makes you.

It takes her an hour because she has to add a lot of seasoning.

Oh paksiw, when I'm done eating you, I want more, but I can't have anymore because I'm full.

I'm Filipino, and I eat a lot of fish.

It's in my blood.
Facts About Blueberries

Oh blueberry, you are amazing because you taste amazing with strawberries.

You taste sweet.

“You’re so brilliant!” I say.

You smell natural.

You feel smooth.

You look round.

You make a squish sound when I eat you!

You are as smooth as a baby’s cheek.

You are as natural as a circle.

Thank you for staying in the fridge so I can eat you.

I ate you on my couch with my family.

I ate you when I was seven years old!

I feel delicious when I eat you!
Oh blueberry, you’re so blue that you turn me into sadness!

You die in my mouth.

You make me feel happy!

Oh blueberry, you’re the best because I can eat you for a month!
Noodles

Oh noodles, when I taste you, you are yummy and refreshing.

People say, “This is good.”

You look great and delicious.

Noodles go splash, bubble, and slurp.

You are skinny as french fries.

You are as wet as Coke.

Noodles make me run around the world.

Thank you, noodles, for supporting me every time I’m sad.

I remember that I ate you at home with my mom.

“Finish your noodles,” she said.

Oh noodles, you are swimming in soup.
We get you from the store,

my mom, and dad, and I.

I can make people bounce on my tummy because you make me fat.
The Turkeys Are Coming

Oh turkey, you are as salty as the deep, blue sea.

You are as large as a globe.

People say, “This is so delicious. I need another one.”

Oh turkey, you are as burnt as a burnt building.

Thank you, turkey, for being on my table for Thanksgiving dinner.

Every year, we eat you at my house.

Why, oh why, can’t we eat you at your house?

You float in my belly after I eat you.

Oh turkey, you dive into my tummy as people dive into the ocean.

When I see you, I gobble you up.

I jump up and down like when I am on a trampoline.
Oh watermelon, you are amazing because you’re juicy and sweet.

Crunch.

People say, “Can I have some?”

You taste sweet.

You feel cold and round.

You are as crunchy as a carrot.

You are as hard as a rock.

You are watery, warm, and wonderful.

Thank you for being a fruit.

When I see you, I jump all the way to Venus.

My sister and I eat you in summer afternoons.

You slip into my hand.
You are happy.

Oh watermelon, you are cold, crunchy, and chewy.

You are so round as a planet.
Wild Watermelon

Oh watermelon, you are amazing because you are juicy and sweet.

Juicy and sweet.

Round and red.

Smooth.

Oh watermelon, you are as smooth as a table.

Thank you for being the best watermelon.

I eat you in the bedroom with my big sister.

Oh watermelon, you explore in my stomach.

Crunch.

Oh watermelon, you are refreshing, rare, and remarkable.

I eat you with my sister. You make me so happy and healthy.

People say, “It’s so yummy!”

I jump all the way to the sky.
Mango

Oh mango, you are so amazing because you are so fresh and flowery in the summertime.

You are also amazing because we can cut you up in tiny, little squares.

You are so smooth inside.

You smell so sweet inside.

You are as soft as a baby wipe.

You are as sweet as a candy apple with lots of caramel, and so much candy and sour candy.

Mango, thank you for being so cold and sweet.

Mango, you dance around in my tummy all day long.
Mango

Oh mango, you are so smooth.
Oh mango, you are so sweet.
You taste so juicy.
Thank you, mango.
Art by
Mr. Halili’s class
I Would Run Across a River of Crazy Crocodiles to Get You
Aneesah Ahmad

Green Paradise

Oh cucumber, you are oh so very crunchy.
You are also very bland.
You look so very green.
You taste very juicy.
You feel so very smooth.
You also smell like nothing.
You are as long as my smooth water bottle.
You are very juicy as the seeds of a pomegranate.
Oh cucumber, you've made my life so much better.
I can't live without you.
You always help me when I'm down.
The best time I was with you was when I was with my family, when I first tried you.
You were delicious, and now I always enjoy you.
You lock yourself in the fridge and try to hide, but I eat you anyway and I always find you.

You're so amazing that I gobble you up, and you try to eat me but you're too weak.

When I bite on you, I go crunch, crunch, CRUNCH!

I was a little kid, and I didn’t want to eat you, but one day my mom forced me to eat you. And that day I loved you, and to this day I still eat you.

Oh cucumber, you are crunchy, caring, and crispy.

Oh cucumber, you are bright and bold.

Oh cucumber, you’re so crunchy, crumbly, and caring that it’s unbelievable that you can speak.

You’re so useful and unique.

Cucumber, you’re so green that when I look anywhere and everywhere, I see green.

All I see is green.
Juicy Fruit

Oh strawberry, you are really juicy.

You are in everything, like ice cream.

You are good when I put you in oatmeal or Cheerios.

People say, “They are juicy strawberries!”

You are so red.

You taste good, smell sweet, and feel soft.

You are a very classic flavor.

You are as red as a red marker.

You’re so sweet that your seeds are made out of marshmallow.

Thank you for the taste you have.

I would sleep after eating you for millions of years.
At the strawberry farm, I picked you to make jelly.

You cried because things are made out of you.

We all eat you on Tuesdays with my mom and dad.
I Love Strawberry

Oh strawberry, I love you.

You're as juicy as a dragonfruit.

It’s amazing that you're red.

Sometimes you’re sad that I’m going to eat you up.

Juicy and delicious like nothing.

Bumpy red.

You're as bumpy as a basketball.

Strawberries, you are as bumpy as a road.

Thank you, strawberry, for letting me eat eighty billion of you.

You climb out of the bushes and cry.

People say, “You’re so red and delicious!”
You splat when I bite into you.

You look sad when I am going to eat you.

Oh strawberry, you are spectacular and sweet and sour.

I would run across a river of crazy crocodiles to get you, strawberries.
Deshon Grayson, Jr.

Delicious Popcorn

Oh popcorn, you taste like melted cheese, and you are buttery like a car inside.

Oh popcorn, you are so buttery that you could fill a whole lake with butter.

You are hot as nachos and the desert.

You are buttery in my head.

I got friends but they’re popcorn.

Popcorn, you are bland as air.

Thank you, popcorn, for being good.

I eat you at the movies with my mom and pops and sis.

I saw *Lion King*.

People say you’re delicious and pretty good.

You are buttery, popcorn.

Kernels fly through the air.
You are chewy and crispy.

Every time I eat you, you make me feel full and buttery.
Oh noodles, you are amazing because you are spicy and warm, and when I slurp you, you make a slurp noise.

You look flat as a paper and you have no smell.

You are as slippery as water and as white as a white cup.

Thank you, noodles, you are so yummy I can eat 700 of you.

People say, “I love noodles.”

You stretch, and you feel wet like rain drops.

I like you so much.

I eat you very fast, as fast as I can run.

Oh noodles, you are hot and healthy.
Mango

Oh mango, you are amazing food because I can make you into a popsicle or juice.

You are the best because you’re so sweet and you can be sour.

Oh mango, you taste so good it’s like my taste buds are having a tropical party.

You feel so smooth and you look delicious.

When I eat you, you sound like crunch.

You are as colorful as a rainbow and as yellow as the sun.

I thank you, mango, because you are so delicious and awesome.

When I eat you, my face crunches up like a ball and I fly through the goal.

I remember I ate you with my brother and cousin at a festival, and on a hot day I made you into a popsicle and I said, “It’s so delicious.”

People say, “It’s so good and so sweet.”
You dance in the Tajín and scream when I put you in the blender.

You also shine in the light.

You connect to my family because they buy you because they know you’re my favorite.

Oh mango, when I bite into you, my teeth fall out because you’re so sweet!
Yummy Pretzel

Oh pretzel, you are crunchy.
You're good.
You are bumpy.
You are crunchy.
You are loud.
You are brown.
You whisper to me, “I look delicious.”
The Spiciest and Tastiest Food

Oh naan, you are amazing to me because you are spicy and you are so good!

You are brown, and the meat in the soup is big.

You sound squishy, you smell like garlic, you feel warm, and you taste chewy and delicious.

I want to thank you because when I put you in my mouth, you make it taste so good.

People say, “Mmmmm... this is great!” or, “Bring me more tomorrow!”

You race me to the bread so I can’t eat you guys.

Oh naan, you are salty, spicy, and you are spectacular.

Oh naan, I can eat you for the rest of my LIFE!

That’s how good you taste.

I’ll even lick the whole bowl!
Soft Rice

Oh rice, when I eat you, I jump.

You are perfect and powerful.

Rice is a delicious food.

You are soft and you are white and you’re small.

You are as white as a paper.

You are as fluffy as a stuffed animal.

People say, “The rice is yummy.”

You float on my soup.

Oh rice, you are the most delicious food in the world.
Oh dragonfruit, you are juicy and sweet as a chocolate.

You taste juicy.

You smell like candy.

You feel spiky and you look bright.

You are spiky as a toe on a foot.

Thank you, dragonfruit, for your juiciness.

I tried you when I was four.

I was at home with my family and I took a bite.

I was so impressed by how good you were that I jumped out of happiness.

You hit me in my stomach with your juiciness when I bite you.

Dragonfruit, you crunch when I eat you and I slurp you.

You can make a pool in my stomach.

You are juicy, joyful, and jumpy.
Green Apples

Oh green apples, you are sweet and juicy as 7UP.

You look circular and green.

You feel like a green ball.

You smell like nothing.

You taste chewy.

You are as green as a turtle.

You are as circular as a ball.

Thank you for being green like my favorite color.

You make me happy when I eat you.

A time when I ate you was when I was at the park.

I was with my family and my dog.

You gotta get clean before I eat you.

I clean you with water from the sink.
When I eat you, you say, “Chomp,” and you crunch and sizzle.

My family says, “Can I get one of your green apples?”

When I eat you, I go jumping on the floor.

Oh green apple, you’re so shiny that I go blind.

You’re so juicy that I run away from you.

You are juicy, sweet, chewy, and green, my favorite color.
The Alien Fruit

Oh mango, you’re as tasty as the best candy in the world.

You are sour and sweet, plus people can add a lot of things in the mango.

From the outside, you’re green as an alien.

From the inside, you’re yellow.

Mango, you taste refreshing as cold water.

Mango, you’re as shiny as a star.

Mango, you smell like nothing in the world.

Mango, you feel smooth as a stone.

Mango, you’re colorful and round as a rainbow ball.

Thank you, mango, FOR YOUR very SWEET TASTE!

Oh mango, you’re juicy, joyful, and jolly.

At night, in a party, you were just sitting.
My auntie cut you in half.

I got a piece and ate you up.

You lie down in the sun to shine brightly.

My brother says, “OMG, mango you are the best!”

Sometimes you’re hard, and you make a crunch noise!

Mango, you’re so sweet that you make me go crazy.

Oh mango, you’re so sweet I wish I had a ton of you!

Oh mango, you’re so watery that when I eat you, you make a splish sound.
The Best Pineapple

Oh pineapple, you are cold and juicy.
You are so sour that you make my feet jump.
You are big and yellow.
You are spiky.
You are sweet and sour.
You are as spiky as a spiky bone.
Oh pineapple, you are so sweet all the time.
Kids lose their teeth after one minute of eating you.
Thank you for being sweet and tasty.
“OMG, I want that every day,” people say.
I was eating you and I was watching.
You whispered, “Please don’t eat me.”
You are yellow and yummy.
Perfect Pupusas

Oh pupusas, you are juicy.

You are cheesy.

You are greasy.

You are soft.

My mouth chomps down on you.

When I throw you on the floor, you make a splat noise.

You are shiny.

In the light you are chewy.

Sometimes I bite my skin.

Pupusas, you are round as a moon.

You are so stretchy that you are the same size as my head.

Thank you, pupusas, for letting me eat you.

I enjoyed you in my dad’s house when my dad went to his friend’s house.
You climb out of my belly when I eat you.

You hit me so I got diarrhea.

I would share pupusas with my friend Daquan.

I could eat five million pupusas, and then I could jump in a pool of sharks.

Oh pupusas, you are perfect and powerful.
Pears Are So Delightful

Oh pears, I eat you as a snack some days.

People say, “Give me some!”

Oh pears, you make my heart beat at a flash of light, and my heart jumps out and starts doing a belly bounce.

You taste like a fruit bowl with sugar and juice.

You are green as lettuce but curved and juicy.

You are as cold as a popsicle.

They will take you from me and gobble you up.

Thank you, pear, for not having mold on you.

I remember going to the farmer’s market with my mom and getting fruits.

You cry tears of pear juice because I am cutting you.

When I eat you, I drink your pear juice.
You connect to my life because you are the best fruit I have ever eaten.

Oh pears, you make me wanna raid Area 51 ALONE with no weapons.
Oh banana, you are amazing because I can dip you in chocolate.

You are soft and you are amazing in smoothies.

You are sweet.

Your skin is as smooth as a paper.

You’re as yellow as a shiny star.

You smell kind of sweet.

You are as yellow as the sun.

You are as soft as a squishy.

You are as smooth as glass.

Thank you, banana, for being in my life.

You are sweet.

You lift me up every time I eat you.
I eat you in the afternoon in my room when I’m watching my phone with my sister.

You swim in my cereal and shiver in the fridge.

When people see you, they say, “I can’t wait to put you in my smoothie.”

Oh banana, you are so beautiful, bright, bold, and yellow as the sun.

Oh banana, you are so sweet I can eat you a million times in a day.
Oh rice, you are really chewy and delicious.

Oh rice, you are so good that I eat one million bowls in one millisecond!

You taste really salty, smell plain, look small, and feel really warm.

And you hiss when you are cooking!

You are as white as snow on a mountain and you are as small as a grain of sugar!

And when I eat you, you burn my mouth like I’ve eaten hot sauce.

My sister and I say, “I want more!”

“You are delicious, delicate, and delightful!”

Thank you, rice, for making my sister and me enjoy dinner and be happy and joyful!

When I went to the Bahamas, I said, “This is GREAT.”

And I couldn’t stop eating.
You dream to find my bowl.

You help my sister, and I love to eat dinner when my mom calls, “Get your food!”

You are great and yummy for me and Nevaeh.
Art by
Ms. Phillips’ class

APPLE

BLUE BERRIES
you are amazing
you matter
you are very important

WATERMELON

BANANA

MANGO
MS. POPESCU’S CLASS

Your Juice Makes the Whole Planet Swim
Red as a Fire Truck

Oh pomegranate, you are sweet and chewy.

You are as tasty as a candy.

You feel smooth as a smooth jacket.

People say, “IT’S SO YUMMY!” and they get up and dance.

You carry the sweet seeds with you.

When I open you, you look like a flower.

You let your seed go inside my mouth, so I can chew it.

When I open you, you look like a white and red flower.

You are the best because you are so juicy and so yummy that I can’t stop eating you.
Oh pomegranate, you are as red as a red balloon.

Oh pomegranate, thank you for letting me eat you.

Oh pomegranate, you are so juicy that juice comes out of my mouth like a waterfall.

I remember the time that I went to the pomegranate farm with my family, and you made me so happy that I could eat a thousand of you.

You’re happy because people love pomegranates.

My family and I love you.

Oh pomegranate, you are so friendly, funny, and frank.
Cherries

Oh cherries, you are red and round and juicy and sweet and sour and delicious and fresh and colorful and bright.

You smell like sour juice.

Oh cherries, you are round, refreshing, and a rich color.

Whenever I put you in my mouth, you’re amazing and sour and juicy, and I want to stuff loads of you in my mouth.

Thank you for being sour and having a lot of juice and making me happy.

If I saw a cherry bush, I would stuff loads of you in my mouth.

You are round and shiny and sweet and fresh and sour and juicy.

You call to me to buy a cherry cake.

People say, “CHERRIES HAVE BLOOD INSIDE!”
My Favorite Fruit

Oh strawberry, you are amazing because you are delicious, and when I eat you, you taste so sweet and sour.

When I see you, I scream for five minutes.

You smell fresh, and you taste chewy, crunchy, and juicy.

You feel cold and wet.

You taste delicious.

I can eat you every day and every year, and every Christmas, Halloween, and Thanksgiving.

You are as fresh as a flower.

You are as sour as a Sour Patch Kids.

People say, “You are so red and sweet.”

Thank you, strawberry, for letting me eat you.

When I eat you, you taste sweet.

You are juicy, delicious, delightful, and delicate.
Just yesterday I had you and I felt so happy.

I was with my mom and I was inside.

My mom said, “What are you doing?” and I said, “I am not eating a strawberry.”

My lips were not red because I licked my lips quickly, and if she saw me, I would be busted by her.

Oh strawberry, you always listen to me.

When I tell you, “Get in my mouth,” you do it.

Oh strawberry, you smile at me by the bush.

When I got home, I was in the kitchen to get you and my mom said, “What are you doing?”

“Nothing.”

And I was trying to eat you, but my mom said, “No.”

And when I got home, I checked that she was sleeping and she was, so I tiptoed and I enjoyed you, but it was just a dream.
You are hot and buttery.

You are refreshing, rare, and rich.

You are bumpy and smell neutral.

You look green and you taste buttery.

You go sizzle when you are on the pan.

You go munch when I eat you.

You are as green as a tennis ball!

Butternut squash, thanks for being DELICIOUS!

Once at a restaurant with my mom we got you with soup.

My mom said, “Eat your soup.”

“Ok!”
Oh butternut squash, you roll into the oven and you sing.

You are the best because you go with EVERYTHING.

I was by myself at home. I said, “So good.”

It’s been so long now that I am twenty.

You are finally ready.
The Grape Ode...

Oh grapes, you are so good and tasty.

You are purple like my favorite color.

When I eat you, you splash and splash, like when I jump in the water.

You look round.

You taste sweet.

You smell like nothing.

You feel soft and round.

I love you so much.

You taste so good.

I jump when I eat you.

You are as green as a pear and as sour as Sour Patch Kids.
I thank you because if it weren’t for you, I would have never eaten a fruit.

I was at the park with my sisters and mom.

I ate a grape.

I jumped and said, “Yummy!”

People say, “I love you so much!” when they eat you.

You roll on my plate after I wash you, like a bouncy ball.

You connect to my life.

This is why all of my family always eats you and always buys you.

You are as small as a marble.

I could eat one hundred million of you.
Oh guacamole, you can be used with other foods and you're very colorful.

You feel chunky and smooth.

You also smell fresh.

You are very colorful.

You are also quiet.

You are as fresh as drinking water on a hot summer day.

Thank you, guacamole, for making me happy with all your good combinations like tacos, chips, and quesadillas.

You are so colorful, cute, and cunning.

I was at my house with my brother and dad when I first tasted you.

I said, “Yum!”
Oh guacamole, you carry all the things that are on top of you like tomatoes, onions, and cilantro.

You connect to me because you have a lot of stuff, and I have a lot of feelings.

You are colorful like nature.

Oh guacamole, you are so yummy that when people eat you, they say, “Yum,” so loudly that even Mexico can hear it.
Naruto vs. Madara and Watermelon

Oh watermelon, you drip water and juice when I pick you up and slice you up.

You are big, red, and tasty as brownies.

When I eat you, I drool.

You are as red as the sunset and as big as a donut.

I thank you for being tasty as my favorite snacks.

People say, “That’s so good.”

The world smiles.

Oh watermelon, you smile when I pick you from my grandma’s house.

Oh watermelon, my family always buys you. Then I eat you or cut you.

I’m sorry it hurts you.

Oh watermelon, you are juicier than all the juice in the world combined.

You are so tasty, terrific, and thick-skinned.
Watermelon as Pink as Patrick

Oh watermelon, you are as delicious as candy and cotton candy.

Oh watermelon, you are as red as lipstick.

You are as red as Takis, and you are as round as a balloon and as red as SpongeBob’s tie.

People shout, “You are as amazing as life!”

Oh watermelon, you are as red as YouTube and the Yemen flag.

Oh watermelon, you are as beautiful as a butterfly because you are colorful.

“You are so juicy.”

I can gobble you up.

Evolet said, “Goodbye.”

I said, “Yum.”
One day at my cousin's big house, we ate your juicy fruit.

When I ate you, I thought you were candy.

You were so sweet that I yelled so loudly that everyone heard me outside.

You clean the dishes and are green like a dream.

My sister, brother, and I love you, watermelon.

Oh watermelon, you are so juicy that your juice makes the whole planet swim.
You’re Green and You Fit in the Rainbow

Oh kiwi, you are sour like a lime!

Also, when I eat you, you’re sour and sometimes sweet.

You are small like a tiny football.

You taste like a lemon and also taste sweet as a candy.

You feel like a soft, fuzzy thing and cold like a freezer.

You smell like a fresh candy store.

You are fuzzy as a fuzzy carrot.

Thank you, kiwi, for being sour and sweet.

Oh kiwi, I can eat you for ever and ever until I’m 136.

I will still eat you kiwi.

People say, “Yum,” or “Yummy,” and they get up and get more.
Oh kiwi, you drip when I take a bite.

You crunch in my mouth like chips.

Oh kiwi, when I eat you, I start jumping up and down.
Yellow as the Sun

Oh mango, you are sweet, sour, and juicy!

Also, when I eat you, you're delicious and refreshing!

People say, “That was so good!”

Also, they say, “That is so shiny!”

You smell like a sunflower, and you smell like a juicy Jolly Rancher.

You are as yellow as the sun.

Oh mango, I can eat ten thousand of you in a year!

Thank you, mango, for making my life better.

When I enjoyed you, I was in a calm place.

I was by myself, and I said, “Oh mango, you are fresh as a new sunrise.”

You crunch in my mouth when I eat you.
Also, you are sour as a Jolly Rancher.

You are juicy, joyful, and jolly!

My brother and my dad like you with Tajin.

Oh mango, you are super-duper juicy.

When I eat you, you chomp in my mouth.

I can eat one hundred of you in a year.
Golden as a Chain

Oh grapes, you are amazing because you are fresh.

You are amazing because you are chewy.

You are purple, pleasant, and perfect.

You are round when I eat you.

You are munchy.

You sometimes smell sweet.

You feel wet and you taste refreshing.

Oh grapes, when I eat you, you make the noises, Munch! Munch! and Chomp! Chomp! Chomp!

Oh grapes, you are as round as a head.

Oh grapes, when I see you, I think that you are bigger than the world.

Thank you, grapes, for letting me eat you.
The last time I was eating you was last weekend.

I was at home with my two siblings and with my dad.

We were saying, “Yummy, this is so good.”

You roll in the bowl, and you cry because you are rolling in a glass bowl.

You are not the favorite food of my family, but we like to eat you.

People say that you taste better than any other fruit.
Oh lemon, you are so yummy.

You are so cute as a newborn puppy or a new baby dog.

Your seeds are as black as mascara.

You look beautiful, and you feel cold as the North Pole.

You look like SpongeBob.

You taste sour and limey and good as limey melon.

You are as funny as SpongeBob.

You are as pretty as Maram and Urda.

You are so juicy.

I can gobble you up.

“Goodbye,” Maram said.
I was making lemonade with your lemon juice at my house, and it was dripping on the couch.

You are so sweet that I called Maram, and I screamed on the phone.

You are as yellow as SpongeBob and float all the way to the stores, Pink and Victoria's Secret.

Oh lemon, you are so yellow, and you make a whole planet of SpongeBob's face.

You are made into lemonade when I watch a movie.

I dream about drinking you.

Oh lemon, you are my best friend, like Wala and Maram, because you play with me.

You are so shiny that I scrunch.
Watermelon

Oh watermelon, you are always delicious and sweet every time I eat you.

You always taste delicious and you smell good and you are always slippery and you look so red.

You are as good as a big, pink cloud.

I am thanking you because you are making me happy.

At my house I ate you with my family.

“Oh my gosh, watermelon, you are so good.”

Oh watermelon, you make me dream about you every day.

We always eat you if we buy you at a store.

Oh watermelon, why do you always carry me when I am playing games on my Apple laptop?
The Crunchy and Chewy Passion Fruit

Oh passion fruit, you are amazing because every time I eat you, you are sweet and your seeds are chewy.

You are my most favorite when you are in my favorite passion fruit drink.

You taste like a fresh-picked cherry.

People say, “It’s so sweet, give me more!”

You smell like a fresh orange.

You feel round like a watermelon.

You look like a little tangerine.

When I eat you, you crunch and chomp.

On the inside, you look like a bowl with a lot of yellow seeds.

People say, “It’s so chewy and crunchy.”
You are as round as a marble.

You are as sweet as ice cream.

Your seeds are as crunchy as a Crunch bar.

Thank you because every time I eat you, my mouth feels sweet and delicious.

When I first ate you, I was at home in the kitchen with my mom.

When I first ate you, I felt scared because I thought you were going to taste gross.

But when I swallowed you, I instantly loved you.

You are tart, tasty, and tangy.

You giggle at me every time I hold you.

You are excited for me to eat you.

You are scared when you are in my stomach.

Oh passion fruit, you are so chewy and crunchy that every time I eat you, my mouth waters so much it fills up a bathtub.

You connect to my life because every time I want something to eat, you are always there.
I have a friend that always gives me passion fruit, and he’s got a backyard full of them.

I love you so much.

I could eat you all day and night and it would never end.

You are flavorful, fruity, and fantastic.
Art by
Ms. Popescu’s class
About the Organizations
About 826 Valencia

Who we are and what we do

826 Valencia is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting under-resourced students ages six to eighteen with their creative and expository writing skills and to helping teachers inspire their students to write. Our services are structured around the understanding that great leaps in learning can happen with one-on-one attention and that strong writing skills are fundamental to future success.

826 Valencia comprises three writing centers—located in San Francisco’s Mission District, Tenderloin neighborhood, and Mission Bay—and three satellite classrooms at nearby schools. All of our centers are fronted by kid-friendly, weird, and whimsical stores, which serve as portals to learning and gateways for the community. All of our programs are offered free of charge. Since we first opened our doors in 2002, thousands of volunteers have dedicated their time to working with tens of thousands of students.

Programs

FIELD TRIPS

Classes from public schools around San Francisco visit our writing centers for a morning of high-energy learning about the craft of storytelling. Four days a week, our Field Trips produce bound, illustrated books and professional-quality podcasts, infusing creativity, collaboration, and the arts into students’ regular school day.
IN-SCHOOLS PROGRAMS

We bring teams of volunteers into high-need schools around the city to support teachers and provide one-on-one assistance to students as they tackle various writing projects, including newspapers, research papers, oral histories, and more. We have a special presence at Buena Vista Horace Mann K–8, Everett Middle School, and Mission High School, where we staff dedicated Writers’ Rooms throughout the school year.

AFTER-SCHOOL TUTORING

During the school year, 826 Valencia’s centers are packed five days a week with neighborhood students who come in after school and in the evenings for tutoring in all subject areas, with a special emphasis on creative writing and publishing. During the summer, these students participate in our Exploring Words Summer Camp, where we explore science and writing through projects, outings, and activities in a super fun, educational environment.

WORKSHOPS

826 Valencia offers workshops designed to foster creativity and strengthen writing skills in a wide variety of areas, from playwriting to personal essays to starting a zine. All workshops, from the playful to the practical, are project-based and are taught by experienced, accomplished professionals. Over the summer, our Young Authors’ Workshop provides an intensive writing experience for high-school-age students.
COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

We offer a roster of programs designed to help students get into college and be successful there. Every year, we grant several $20,000 scholarships to college-bound seniors, provide one-on-one support to two hundred students via the Great San Francisco Personal Statement Weekend, and partner with ScholarMatch to offer college access workshops to the middle- and high-school students in our tutoring programs. We also offer internships, peer tutoring stipends, and career workshops to our youth leaders.

PUBLISHING

Students in all of 826 Valencia’s programs have the ability to explore, experience, and celebrate themselves as writers in part because of our professional-quality publishing. In addition to the book you’re holding, 826 Valencia publishes newspapers, magazines, chapbooks, podcasts, and blogs—all written by students.

TEACHER OF THE MONTH

From the beginning, 826 Valencia’s goal has been to support teachers. We aim to both provide the classroom support that helps our hardworking teachers meet the needs of all our students and to celebrate their important work. Every month, we receive letters from students, parents, and educators nominating outstanding teachers for our Teacher of the Month award, which comes with a $1,500 honorarium. Know an SFUSD teacher you want to nominate? Guidelines can be found at 826valencia.org.
About YBCA

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts is one of the nation’s most innovative arts institutions. Founded in 1993 as the cultural anchor of San Francisco’s Yerba Buena Gardens development, YBCA’s work spans the realms of contemporary art, civic engagement, and public life. By using culture as an instrument for social change, YBCA is reimagining the role an arts institution can play in the community it serves.

YBCA’s Youth Arts Programs are supported by grants from the Walter & Elise Haas Fund, The Bernard Osher Foundation, Wells Fargo Foundation, The Kimball Foundation, Anonymous, Verizon, Koret Foundation, California Arts Council, The Sato Foundation, Macy’s, and The MCJ Amelior Foundation.

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts is grateful to the City of San Francisco for its ongoing support.
Through a collaboration between 826 Valencia, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, Precita Eyes Muralists, and Bessie Carmichael Elementary School, fourth graders explored the power of odes and the fun of using simile, hyperbole, and personification to describe their favorite healthy foods. From mangoes as tasty as the best candy in the world, coconuts as hairy as Bigfoot, and watermelons as red as YouTube and the Yemen flag, our students reflect on the flavors and features that make their cherished foods worth celebrating.

826 Valencia is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting under-resourced students ages six to eighteen with their creative and expository writing skills and to helping teachers inspire their students to write. Our services are structured around the understanding that great leaps in learning can happen with one-on-one attention and that strong writing skills are fundamental to future success.