



# Ready to Leap on a Plate

Flavorful Odes by Fifth Graders from  
Bessie Carmichael Elementary School

826 Valencia | Fall 2019



## **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.



# Ready to Leap on a Plate

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Bessie Carmichael Elementary School

**Mission Center**

826 Valencia Street  
San Francisco, CA  
94110

**Tenderloin Center**

180 Golden Gate Ave.  
San Francisco, CA  
94102

**Mission Bay Center**

1310 4th Street  
San Francisco, CA  
94158

826valencia.org

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**Project Lead**

Jillian Wasick

**Community Partners**

Rebeka Rodriguez (Yerba Buena Center for the Arts)

Fred Alvarado and Yuka Ezoë (Precita Eyes Muralists)

**Supporting School Staff**

ValerieAnn Fernandez, Suzy Koumjian

**826 Valencia Interns, Tutors, and Editors**

Ryan Bloom, Nana Boateng, Ricardo Cruz-Chong, Precediha Dangerfield, Mike Fox, Connor Gibson, Justin Hung, Tationna Johnson, Stephannie Linares, Monika Mednick, Martin Quarto, Zoe Williams, Melia Zaballos

**Design Director**

Brad Amorosino

**Publications Project Manager**

Meghan Ryan

**Cover & Layout Designer**

Sendy Santamaria

**Template Designer**

Adriana del Mar

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**MS. FERNANDEZ'S CLASS**

I Hope You Never Leave My Side

# Lumpia, the Special Food

Oh lumpia, you are so amazing that you are as juicy as a watermelon.

You have so much stuffing that you make me full by only eating three.

You are so crunchy that someone can hear me eating you from a mile away.

All they hear is *crunch, crunch, crunch*.

Your aroma smells so good that you attract my whole family.

You are as hot as the sun.

You are as rough as a rock.

Thank you for being so fun to cook that you help my grandma kill some time.

I ate you in my house on Christmas Day.

My whole family loved you.

You are so hot and sizzling on my plate with rice.

My lumpia would say, "Come and eat me," on my plate.

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Oh lumpia, you have been my favorite food since I was three.

My grandma will call me once the sizzling dish is cooked.

You give me so much energy that I can eat all the lumpia in the world.

You are delicious, dry, and delightful.

Oh lumpia, you will always be my favorite food.

Thanks for making me full for each meal.

Oh lumpia, you are the best food because you are so delicious.

# Sweet and Fresh

Oh mango, you are yellow as a sun.

You are amazing because you taste sweet as a candy.

You taste sweet and delicious.

You smell fresh and sweet.

You feel wet and smooth.

You look bright.

I like you when you are red.

You are red as a rose and you're yellow as a sunflower inside.

I think you're fresh like a new flower.

I ate you at lunch.

You mix with ice cream.

Oh mango, you make me eat you every second.

You're so good that I fly here to the sun.

# Sweet as a Syrup

Oh BBQ, you are amazing because you are warm  
and tasty.

Oh BBQ, you taste juicy and chewy.

You feel rough and hard.

You smell smoky and burnt.

You are as warm as a jacket.

You are sweet as a maple syrup.

You are greasy as a french fry.

Thank you for being delicious and making me feel happy  
when I bite into you.

You also make people say, "Hmm, I want more!"

My cousins gave me a sample of you.

When I took a bite, it felt surprising.

# The Nutritious Rice

Oh rice, you are so healthy.

You can go with anything.

You are bland and chewy.

Oh rice, you are fluffy, smooth, and you feel soft.

You smell like nothing and kind of fresh.

When I chew you, you are quiet.

You are as chewy as gum.

Oh, you are as soft as my pillow.

Thank you for giving me energy.

At my apartment with my family, I ate you and said,  
"Yummy!"

You give me infinite energy.

Oh, you give me the power to break a wall!

Oh rice, when I have you with chicken, I say, "Hooray."

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Oh rice, you give me the power to escape Alcatraz.

When I chew you, you are as quiet as a spy.

## Soft and Savory

Oh crab, you are amazing because you are seafood, and I eat you with my family.

You always give my family a happy Christmas.

You smell bland, like nothing.

You look hard.

The time I ate you was at dinner and I was at home.

I said, "This is so good."

You are so delicious when I eat you.

# The Awesome Lettuce

Oh lettuce, you are amazing because you are healthy.

You are amazing because you're refreshing.

Oh lettuce, you are so yummy when you are with other food.

I could eat you one hundred times per second, but I will always cry because I remember you are getting separated, and you start hiding from me and start hating me.

I'm sad.

Taste, you are delicious, you smell so amazing and refreshing, you feel so heavy and wet, and you look so bright and clean.

I will love you forever.

Oh lettuce, you are like the sun.

Oh lettuce, you are as green as a green tree.

Oh lettuce, I love the way you shine.

You are super.

You're so spectacularly strong.

Oh lettuce, you are soooo crunchy.

Oh lettuce, thank you so much for being a healthy snack.

When my mom cooks sinigang, I see her chopping you up and putting you in the sinigang.

Then after I talk to you and say, "You're so tasty."

Hey, you there.

Yes, lettuce, you there.

I like to eat you with soup.

I like to eat you at home with my family.

You cry when I touch you.

But when I leave you alone, you don't cry.

Also when I prepare you or my mom prepares you, you cry still because you're being split from your family.

I want my mom to make you into a sinigang.

You could be with the potatoes, pepper, and meat swimming.

Oh lettuce, I have one question: Can we be BFFs?

I really want to be your friend because you are so healthy.

Plus, I could buy a lot of lettuce so we could have fun with them. *Tehhe, hahaha.*

# You're Smoky Patties

Oh black bean burgers, you amaze me with your smoky patties and warm, soft, cloudy buns.

You drip with spices and fresh-sliced lettuce and onions.

You are as juicy as just-cooked ribs.

You are shiny as a diamond and fresh as refreshing lemonade.

You sizzle with watery oil when you're on the grill.

You are as crunchy as peanuts and as loud as ice cream.

I thank you for being in my life, black bean burgers.

I couldn't do it without you!

I ate you last week for dinner.

My family was there to enjoy you with me.

When people eat you, they say, "I could die for you!"

When I eat you, I hop with excitement.

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When you're made, you jump up and down!

You're so delicious that I faint!

# The Chill Sammy

Oh Sammy the Strawberry!

Oh?

Why would I eat Sammy?

She is my favorite fruit, but she is so beautiful and a great comedian.

She can use her “le epic” voice to tell kids to eat other fruits.

I mean, I have eaten other strawberries (not as beautiful as Sammy).

I guess her family tastes juicy and delicious.

She looks like a regular strawberry but with very epic glass and sometimes beautiful legs and arms.

You’re as bootiful as...ME!

Me of course...

Who else is in my range (top range) of BOOTIFUL! UwU.

Thanks for being still chill, “le epic,” letting me eat your family, and lastly for getting at my future kids.

Wait, do I even want kids?

You yell at kids for not eating fruits and veggies.

I started watching AlbertsStuff/Flamingo (a YouTuber), and he created a character named Sammy the Strawberry, and now I eat her family members.

Oh Sammy!

You are sweet, sour, and spectacular!

I can also eat you for 257 years or more!

You're so epic that I get a chill face when I look at you!

# Mango Juiciness

Oh mango juiciness, you are the sourest and the sweetest and juiciest.

People say, "You are very sour."

Sometimes we pick the sweetest, just like how my family loves me.

You smelled good, and when I ate you, I said, "You are good and sweet and sour sometimes."

You are as green as grass.

You are as cold as ice.

Thank you for giving us food and juiciness.

One time I ate you in my house in the Philippines and America, and I said, "Good and yummy."

You dream in my mouth of mango forests full of sunshine.

You are as sweet as my family and my life.

*At ikaw ang pinaka matamis sa pagbibigay sa amin ng kagalakan sa aming buhay.*

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I can eat a billion in a second.

And you're so juicy, so the people drink you, like a billion people.

# Simple but Sweet

Oh apple, you are many flavors such as sweet, sour, bitter, or tart.

You have many kinds of you, over hundreds.

Oh apple, you are so awesome that I can eat three hundred of you in a millisecond, *crunch!*

You are crunchy and sometimes chewy.

You are also round, bumpy, or smooth.

You have the smell of sweetness.

You are sweet, savory, and smooth.

Oh apple, you have been my favorite for millions of years.

You are sweet as candy.

You can be red as lava.

Thank you for being a simple, but really yummy, treat.

When I needed a snack, you were there, ready to be eaten in the fridge.

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You jumped on the trees as we collected your friends.

You are always there, ready to leap on a plate.

We have a big and cool tree that has lots and lots of you.

Hey apple, let's be friends.

You are a simple treat but also a really good treat.

I wish one day I can try all kinds of you.

# The Spectacular Strawberry

Oh strawberries, you are amazing because you taste good with chocolate.

You are bright, bumpy, sweet, and quiet.

You are as bumpy as a basketball.

Thank you.

I enjoyed it when you were dipped in chocolate.

I said, "Yummy."

Once a week I eat you for breakfast.

Strawberry, you are sweet, spectacular, and sometimes sour.

# Pineapple, the Super Fruit!

Oh pineapple, you're as spiky as a metal mace.

You're as yellow as the ding dang sun.

You're as juicy as a pineapple ice tea from *Zombie Catchers*.

You're as sour as a lemon.

Thank you for being juicy.

I ate you a long time ago in my house with my auntie, mom, and sister.

I slurp your juice when I chew you.

You scream when you get squished in my mouth.

You'll see me smiling as I swallow you.

You are the best food because you are healthy and delicious.

You're as tall as my *Dog Man: Brawl of the Wild* books.

You're much better than bananas.

When I bite you, I have enough energy to fly across the universe.

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You always make me feel better with your juicy goodness.

## Spectacular Mango

Oh mango, you're amazing because you're so fresh and sweet.

When I see you, I say, "Thank you, Mom. You're the best."

You taste juicy and feel wet and soft.

You are sweet and super sweet and sooo sweet.

Oh mango, you are soft as a plush blanket.

Thank you for being good.

Oh mango, when I bite into you, you make me wanna die and fall onto the floor for ten minutes.

# Energy to Do Anything

Oh apple, you are nutritious, juicy, healthy, and delicious.

You feel hard, taste sweet and juicy, smell sweet, and are round.

You are as sweet as candy.

You are as juicy as an orange.

Thank you, apple, for the energy to do anything.

# The Red Beast

Oh strawberry, you are as red as a sunburn on a hot summer day.

You are sweeter than sugar inside of lemonade.

You are healthy.

I eat you day and night.

Tastes: You taste sweet as a green apple.

Smells: You smell plain as a cracker.

Feels: You feel bumpy as a road on a street.

Look: You look red as the sun when I close my eyes.

You are great as lemonade on a burning hot day.

You are red as blood.

Thank you for letting me enjoy smoothies.

Thank you for letting me eat fruits.

I hope to eat you again.

I was at home.

I was with my brother.

I was scared of blending it wrong.

You cried in my blender while getting chopped into juice, *Waaaaaa!*

When I eat you, I say, "REeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee."

You are great as jumping out of a helicopter.

## Spaghetti Days

Oh spaghetti, you are amazing because you are tasty  
and you are pretty food.

You are red, cheesy, and yellow, and you look like  
noodles and long noodles.

Oh spaghetti, you are so stretchy that you help me  
score one hundred points in basketball!

You are chewy as gum and as fresh as bamboo.

Thank you, spaghetti, for being a good BFF, and thank  
you for being chewy and fresh and tasty.

I ate you at the house at a birthday party.

And I ate you at Jollibee too.

You make jokes about me and some cartoons.

And I make you laugh and you make me laugh.

Spaghetti and I will be best friends forever.

You are a Filipino spaghetti, and I met you at Jollibee,  
and you said, "Would you be my friend?"

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I hear you slurp if I eat you like noodles.

## The Best of West Salmon

Oh salmon, you are amazing because I don't eat red meat, and you are healthy for me to eat.

When I eat you, I smile.

You look pinkish red and smell like the ocean, and you feel bumpy and taste so delicious.

Oh salmon, you are as good as playing basketball.

Oh salmon, you are as pink as a creative pink crayon.

Thank you for being healthy in my tummy.

Oh salmon, when I eat you, my mouth says, "Mmm," and it waters.

I remember when my mom made me salmon with a loaded potato.

When I ate you, I said, "It's so delicious."

You screamed when I boiled you in my pot.

You fell out of the pot and started yelling, "Help!"

Oh salmon, you're so good because my family eats you.

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This Saturday, my mom put honey on you and you tasted so sweet.

Oh salmon, you're sweet, spicy, and spectacular!

## Ode to Blueberries

Oh blueberries, you are small, round, and blue.

You feel soft and smooth.

The sound you make is a *swish*.

You taste yummy and delicious.

I like blueberries in my yogurt.

I like fresh blueberries that

can shoot up like a rocket.

# The Sweet Strawberry

Oh strawberry, you are the best fruit ever because you are my fav color.

You feel smooth.

You smell fresh.

You taste juicy.

You look bright as the sun

and colorful as a box of crayons.

Thank you because you are sweet and nice.

## Penge ng Mango at Bagoong?

Oh mango 'n shrimp paste, you can be sweet or salty,  
and soft or crunchy.

You can be found at the nearby small Asian store, Starco.

You taste sweet and salty and smell fresh.

You sound crunchy when eaten and you feel rough  
sometimes.

You also have a taste that can be tasted nowhere else in  
the world!

You are as smelly as raw fish.

But also you are as exotic as lychee or pineapples or  
rambutans.

You are as cold as Santa's reindeer's home.

Thank you for choosing to exist in this parallel universe.  
My life would be boring without you.

I was at the dining table doing my homework alone.

I was stuck on my homework and was craving mango  
and shrimp paste.

I walked to the refrigerator to get some.

When I was done eating the mangoes, my homework felt easy.

Another time was when my friends saw that I had mango and bagoong.

They said, "*Penge?*"

But when it was all done, I said, "*Wala na! Tapos na!* It's all done!"

You carry the shrimp paste on your back.

You cry, "Please don't eat us," and try to slip off the mango.

But too bad, you're too late, you're already in my stomach, transformed into jumbles.

I heard about you from my friends from the Philippines.

I asked my family to taste you, so my parents went to Starco to buy shrimp paste.

When they came back home, I tasted it.

Oh mango and bagoong, you are delicious that every time people eat you, one pound of negativity is removed from the world!

## Supreme Pineapple

Oh pineapple, you are as spiky as a porcupine.

I can cut you into pieces.

“Slice!”

You’re juicy as a pineapple iced tea in *Zombie Catchers* when I hit you with a bat, and you explode like that.

You are as sour as a lemon, but when my mom saw me eating you she said, “Let me get some.”

And I said, “No!”

Thank you for letting me cut you.

I was in the Philippines.

I was with my friends and the heat was annoying me.

And I said, “Can I get pineapple?”

And you were refreshing.

You get sliced every single day.

You are as delicious as a chocolate cake.

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We eat you on hot summer days.

When I don't have any, I crawl to the supermarket to get you.

You might be sliced every day but you are refreshing.

## Lychee on the Go

Oh lychee, you are so refreshing as iced water.

You're sweet like my dance moves.

Oh lychee, you're dark as a cave.

You taste like a sweet breeze of Hawai'i.

Oh lychee, you are as bumpy as a food.

Oh lychee, you are as cold as ice.

Thank you for being really healthy but really good.

When I was sick, my mom bought me you

AND I was so happy.

I said, "Thank you so much."

She said, "You're welcome."

You cry when I'm about to eat you.

I laugh and put you

in my mouth and hop away.

You let me have a bonding time

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with my mom.

It makes me feel happy.

You make me laugh when you make people sick, when  
they eat your skin.

That's not your fault.

You're so great you make me pass out.

# The Enormous Chicken

Oh fried chicken, your smell is so good that you are  
crunchy as a chip but crunchier.

You look orange and salty.

You taste good and crunchy.

You feel oily and really crunchy.

You smell good and tasty.

Oh chicken, you are as crunchy as a leaf and also as salty  
as the ocean.

Oh chicken, you're as loud as Godzilla.

*ROARRR!*

*Rrrr!*

And thank you for filling my stomach with joy.

During the Super Bowl, I ate you.

Even though the ref cheated, you made me feel better.

You scream so loudly every time we put you in the frying pan.

You're so crispy, crunchy, and crumbly.

Oh chicken, you're so good.

You're like winning a lottery

because chicken is one of the main foods in the Philippines.

When Filipino people eat you, they say, "This is so good!"

Oh chicken, I could eat you all day for five billion years.

## Best Fruit Ever

Oh mango, you are the juiciest when I eat you.

You're the sweetest and softest when ripe.

You smell really good, like tangy.

You look oval.

You feel very smooth.

When I take a bite, you make a *squish* sound.

You are as orange as the sun in the inside.

You are also as smooth as a table.

Thank you for giving me juicy and sweet food.

One time in Tahoe at an Airbnb, I ate you.

You were the tastiest fruit ever.

You were soooo good and yummy.

I said, "Mmmm, so good, more please!"

You lead my mouth to a good taste.

You feel happy about me when I eat you.

You are the best because you always are happy and in a good mood.

You connect to my family because I'm Fillipino and you grow a lot there.

When I put you in ice cream, you jump with joy.

Oh mango, you're so delicious that you make me hypnotized.

You say, "Eat me more. Eat me more," when I'm done eating a slice of you.

# Rice

Oh rice, you look cute and are the color white.

You smell neutral.

You feel chunky.

You taste salty.

You are as quiet as a goldfish.

I can eat you with most foods.

# Munchy Mango

Oh dried mango, you are sweet as brown sugar.

You are smooth as a paper.

When I have you in my hand, I say, "I will chomp you so HARD!"

*Munch. Munch. Munch!*

You smell juicy, you taste funny, you feel a little rough, and you look yellow.

You're rough like tires. *Drift! Squeal!*

Thank you for making my stomach feel good and eat you by chewing you.

I took a mango at the store.

I enjoyed it alone at 12:00 a.m.

Outside my house the sky was full of stars.

The mango is screaming, "YOU'RE EATING ME!"

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In the Philippines, there are a lot of mango trees that we picked.

Magnificent mango makes my mouth say, "Mmmm!"

**MS. KOUMJIAN'S CLASS**

You Taste Like a Great Day

(SANTO) ASKARI BARGANIER

## Mighty Mango

Oh mighty mango, you are so AMAZING

because of your nice, smooth skin and your brightness.

Oh mango, you are moist and mushy.

You taste so amazing like a chocolate cake.

You smell outstanding like a red rose.

You feel like a brand new table because of your smoothness.

You look so bright like the sun.

Oh mango, you are as juicy as a Gusher.

Oh mango, you are as smooth as a baby's skin.

Thank you for your sacrifice.

Thank you for leaving the market and coming to my stomach.

Once, my stepmom got me a bucket of you and I was so happy.

I just wanna say thanks for your sacrifice.

All twenty of you hopped and danced in my mouth.

People say, "You changed my life!"

You sacrifice your life to be eaten by me,

and I love it when you hop in my mouth.

Oh mango, you make me so excited.

You connect to all of my life, happy and bright.

You're like me because you fight off sickness.

Sincerely thanks, for all you do for me and my taste buds, even though you blow them up.

# The Very Green Apple

Oh apple, you're medium and you look regular, but you have a sweet and delicious kind of taste.

You're so amazing because you're so sweet and make me strong every day.

Oh apple, you look red and bright and smell fresh. You taste yummy and sweet and feel soft and sizzling.

You sound like whispering and quietness.

Oh apple, you are as sweet as apple pie.

Oh apple, you are as red as a red, super big fire truck with sirens.

Oh apple, thank you for making me not have any cavities and making me not go to the dentist.

A time that I enjoyed you was when my girlfriend and I ate you because you were yummy.

It was even better because I was with my own girlfriend.

You lift me up because you make me strong every day  
and give me energy to get healthy.

I like to eat you during lunch with my friends.

You taste really good and you are good.

You make me strong when I eat you.

Apple, you are so red and sweet.

You make me drive infinity miles per second on the  
highway.

You make me so strong that I can lift the world.

# My Favorite Noodles

Oh noodles, you are so chewy and so tasty and yummy.

And you are so good and tasty with teriyaki.

You taste amazing and smell good with some soup.

And you feel slimy and slippery and look good curly.

You are long as a jump rope.

I eat noodles when I get good grades, and I eat them with my mom, dad, and bro.

It is a special day for me.

You wiggle around in the bowl and you sleep in my mouth.

You are not a regular noodle.

You are a special noodle, so that's how you connect to my life and family.

Oh noodles, I think about you 24/7, and I can eat you one billion times.

## Bursting Mango

Oh mango, you open your door to sweetness.

You always dreamed that one day I'd carry you and cut you and eat you.

Mango, you're medium and feel smooth as my bed sheet.

And your color reminds me of a red and green sunset.

Oh mango, you're as fresh as my refrigerator.

Mango, thank you for coming to Earth because you're so good!

Oh Mango, when I eat you, I slurp the sweetness out of you.

Oh mango, when I was at my house, my mom cut you, and you hugged the knife as I was screaming to eat you.

My sister said, "I wish we could eat you every day."

You begged me to eat you because you were ready to be eaten!

Oh mango, you connect to my life because you're so good. I wish I could farm you so we could dance every day!

Mango, I'm so thankful for coming to Earth.

You're the best fruit ever!

I hope you never leave my side.

# You Taste So Good

Oh banana, you make me safe because you are soft and yellow and taste good.

You are the best because you are so soft in my mouth.

Oh banana, you taste soft and look yellow and you smell good.

You are as good as my mom's food.

You look as clean as a person's head.

Thanks for being so good and soft as a baby's face.

The last time I ate you I was with my mom.

We had you for a snack.

You tasted really good in my mouth.

I wanted to eat more, but my mom said, "No, Adrian," because I ate a thousand of you.

You make me happy every day.

You bounce on my tongue.

## A Green Greenery

Oh avocado, you were great with the tacos I had.

You're bumpy on the outside and smooth on the inside.

You were looking like a pear until I sliced you open.

You're as fresh as a frozen soda.

You smell like you were just picked from a tree. You're big, bright, and bumpy.

You are as green as the plants my family grows.

Your seed is as big as an egg.

Thank you for the satisfaction you gave me.

Thank you for solving my hunger.

You hugged my mouth as I took a bite of you on my bread.

You make me happy when your coldness flows into my mouth.

I have been obsessed with you since I was about five years old to now.

I would eat you every day, but my grandma doesn't buy you every day.

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Oh avocado, you are so good that I could eat you 1,573,720 times.

## Fantastic Crabby Effect

Oh crab, you're amazingly juicy and hot, especially with rice.

I prefer you with more rice and gumbo.

Oh crab, you taste funny.

You look good.

You smell steamy.

You look like you have a world supply of meat in you.

You are as orange as a basketball and a pencil.

Oh crab, you are as chewy as a piece of gum.

On Christmas, I opened your orange presents.

My mom gave you cocktail sauce.

I dipped your leg in it.

Merry Christmas...

You bite your nails in fear of me eating you.

You connect to my family because when my mom eats her lobster, it bites its nails.

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Oh crab, I wouldn't go to school because I'm eating you 615 hours a day.

## The Fire-Breathing Dragon Fruit

Oh dragon fruit, you give me a boost of energy.

You lock my mouth with juiciness.

You taste like cotton candy.

You smell like fresh air.

You feel like a smooth dragon.

You are as white as a star.

You are as round as Earth.

You are as sweet as my mother.

You are as purple as a lavender flower.

Thank you for all your sweetness and for giving me energy.

You make me happy.

The first time I saw you, I thought you were a big onion.

But when I tasted you, I knew you were something else.

I was in my living room.

I was with my family.

My parents said, "It is dragon fruit."

You rush into my mouth so I can eat you.

You dance in my stomach.

Oh, dragon fruit, every time I eat you, I never run out.

I would like to eat you in smoothies and fruit bowls and plain.

I like to eat you all the time, everywhere.

Oh, dragon fruit, I could eat one gazillion per second!

## The Mango, Mushy and Minty

Oh mango, you are big but good. You are a rain of sweetness to my mouth.

Oh mango, you taste like all of the sweet things in my mouth when I eat you. *Splash.*

Oh mango, you make me fly from sweetness.

Oh mango, you are as yellow as the sun.

Oh mango, you are as wet as rain.

Oh mango, thank you for coming into this world and never ever leaving me.

At home with my family, they say, "Mmmm," and "Yummy."

You lock me from my mouth, so you don't die from me eating you.

You're scared I'm going to eat you.

We had a mango trip.

Oh mango, thanks for coming to the planet Earth.

# Mr. Pepper

Oh pepper, you're amazing because you have two sides  
of yourself, one is mild, and the other is wild.

You taste like a dragon's breath.

You smell like a wildfire.

You feel like a soft blanket.

Oh pepper, you're as red as my face when I'm mad.

Thank you for giving me reasons to write about you.

I ate you in my bed by myself.

I said, "Mmm-mm."

I chomp into you, *chomp chomp*.

You make a stain on my bed, *splat*.

Oh pepper, you smile evilly as a supervillain.

One thing I have in common with you, Mr. Pepper, is I'm  
always hot, and I have an evil smile like a villain.

Mr. Pepper, you cause a wildfire in my tastebuds.

Pepper, you're so hot I might turn into a dragon.

# Juiciness

Oh mango, your color makes me happy.

You make me happy when I eat you.

When my mom buys you in the store, she says, "This is so yummy."

On the inside, you're as sweet as orange juice.

You smell like a flower blossom in the spring.

You feel bumpy as a road.

You are as sweet as a lollipop.

Thank you for being in my life.

If you weren't in my life, I would be sad.

I ate you at my house with my grandma and my mom.

You give me a happy feeling when I munch on you.

# Airheads with Watermelon

Oh watermelon, you are as juicy as brand-new Airheads.

You give the amazing look of a tall and big mountain.

You taste just like a candy and you smell like a rainforest.

You feel like snow, and I can push my finger into you.

You have a red, juicy flavor, and you are like a tall, big skyscraper.

You are tastier than a jawbreaker, and you are as sweet as chocolate.

You are as big as a 50,000-acre mansion.

Thank you for blessing the human race with flavor from you.

Oh watermelon, remember the time that scorching hot day was over me?

You saved that day with your cool, inner core body

when I chewed you in my mouth.

You laugh when I cut you into slices, you give me your juicy flavor, and when I open my mouth, I make my way into your flavor.

You are present in my life, in the freezer, when I eat you on a hot day.

You bring my life true meaning and taste.

Oh watermelon, I can eat you whole a million times and not get full.

When I eat you, it makes a *chomp*.

And when I chew your inner body, it drips red, juicy juice.

When someone throws you one hundred feet in the air, you will splat on the ground.

## Delicious Mango

Oh mango, you're cold and sweet when you march in my mouth.

You make me happy.

Oh mango, you are quiet, and you whisper sweet nothings to my ear.

Oh mango, you are as sweet as a sweet potato.

Oh mango, you are as soft as a soft pillow.

Thank you for keeping me away from the dentist.

I was at my house and eating with my brothers.

You marched in my mouth.

You make me happy when I eat you.

When I eat you, I feel like my life is amazing.

You are sweet, sour, and juicy.

# Mango with Tajín

You're juicy and soft.

Eating you with Tajín will make you a lot better to eat.

You're yellow as the bright sun.

You're sweet as a cake.

You make me cry when I see you.

Thank you for being my juicy mango.

I was at home.

I was with my mom.

I ate you when I was seven years old.

You make me smile when I eat you.

I want to eat you ten times in a week.

Oh mango, thank you for making me smile

when I eat you.

## Fantasy Mangos

Oh mango with Tajín, you give my day a smile.

Also, you also fill my day with joy and happiness.

You are as sweet as my heart and spicy as a chili pepper.

You are slimy as a pit of slime.

You are as orange as a sunset.

And you are as oval as a bar of soap.

Thank you for always being sweet to me and also cheering me up when I am sad.

Oh mango, when I chomp you, you make this *crunch* and you drip juice.

I remember when I was at my mom's house. She cut you up, and I decided to have you with Tajín.

You lock my heart up because you're sweet and spicy.

You also make me feel special.

You connect to my family because we eat you almost every day.

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Oh mango, you are mushy, magnificent, and you are just amazing.

# Preciously Perfect Pomegranate

Oh pomegranate, you are a big sphere that opens, and I find tiny, tiny things inside of you.

You are so round, I might not even think you're a pomegranate.

I would think you're a ball.

You taste so good my mouth becomes a waterfall.

You're so smooth, but you are so crunchy on the inside.

You're so good.

You taste like candy.

Thank you for being so good.

Thank you for being tasty.

When my mom brought you, she said, "Guess what I got!"

I said, "What did you get?"

The moment I saw you, I asked her, "What is that?"

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And then when I ate you, my mouth shattered into a million little, tiny pieces.

You shoot in my mouth when I eat you, smile at me when I open you, and you also call to me to eat you.

Oh pomegranate, when I eat you, you rip my mouth out.

You make me want to shout, "You're so deliciously delicious."

## Sweet or Sour?

Oh mango, you give me a surprise like a kid who gets a present.

You smell sweet as candy.

You taste fresh as spring water.

You feel like a round balloon.

You are as colorful as a rainbow.

You are as smooth as a table.

Thank you, mango, for cleaning my feelings and making me relaxed.

I was at home with my sister and she said, "Hey, want some mangos?"

I said, "Yes."

She got some and we both had our own mangos.

Oh mango, you smile when you're sweet or are angry when you're sour.

You connect to my life by how colorful you are.

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Oh mango, you're so colorful that I can paint with you.

## Terrific Taco

Oh taco, you are so crunchy and so good.

The warmness and the greasiness in you make me warm.

You look so colorful.

You smell like meat and like beef.

You are as crunchy as a pinecone.

Oh taco, when I chomp on you,

you taste so crunchy and drip grease.

Oh guaco taco, I remember when my mom took me to see you.

You came to me and jumped in my mouth.

Oh taco shell, you hug the meat and keep it together.

Oh taco, when my mom says she'll buy you, my brother and I get so happy that we yell with joy.

Oh taco, when you have a vestibule, the world explodes with flavor.

## Refreshing Fruit

Oh grape, you are very juicy and refreshing and you melt in my mouth.

You taste delicious like candy, even if you are a fruit.

You smell fresh like when it's a hot day and you refresh in my mouth.

You feel wet and cold, and you melt in my mouth when you're cold and wet.

You look shiny and round just like a basketball.

You are small as a baby turtle.

Thank you for my health and thank you for being juicy.

I remember eating you when my mom said to me, "Ariel, here have your grapes!"

I was at the kitchen table with my mom and you felt juicy.

I was watching my phone and you felt delicious.

My mom said to me, "Wow, you finished it!"

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You smile when I see you and when I put you in my mouth.

My mouth becomes juicy when I eat you.

My feelings with you are interesting.

You connect to my family because we always bring you to parties and for lunch.

There are so many things I want to say about you.

When I see you, I eat you in a second.

I can eat you for my breakfast, lunch, and dinner, for the rest of my life.

You dance and smile, "ALO!"

# Warm, Delicious Pho!

Oh pho, you're hot and greasy but taste delicious and make me warm when I am cold.

You taste refreshing, you look shiny, you feel smooth, and you smell fresh.

Oh pho, you are as warm as the sun.

Oh pho, you are as clear as my soul.

Thank you, pho, you make me happy when I can eat you.

I ate you at home with my family, and I said, "Mhhhh," because you are yummy.

My mom said, "Oooooo," because of how you are.

You slide in my mouth because you want me to eat you.

How this connects to my family is that sometimes, when something happens like a birthday, we will eat you and my mom will make you for us.

When my mom cooks you, you bubble up.

When I pick you up with a fork, you fall down and splash.

# Juicy Watermelon

Oh watermelon, you are amazing because you are very juicy and very red.

People say that you are so juicy and so bright.

People jump up and down for you.

You are sweet and smell fresh and feel cold and look bright.

You are red inside.

You are bright like a rising sun.

Oh watermelon, you are so juicy that you can fill a pool.

You are cold like a winter storm and bright like the sun.

Thank you for being cold and juicy and sweet.

When I was at my house, I cut you in half and shared you with my mom.

After, I said, "It's juicy."

You're feeling when I cut you in half.

Your action is to be scared.

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You connect to my life because you are the best food ever.

When I'm done, you scream, "No!" that I'm going to throw you away.

# The Most Delicious Food of All

Oh orange chicken, you are warm, salty, chewy, and very tasty.

You are small and round and sizzle on the stove.

You are sweet and sticky like Jell-O.

Oh orange chicken, you're as orange as an orange.

Thanks for tasting so good.

You make me feel as happy as the sun.

I was watching YouTube, and my mom made you and got you from Trader Joe's.

You roll into my stomach and it feels delicious.

I eat you with rice, and I feel like I can climb a whole mountain to eat you.

You are sweet and salty and sticky and you smell sweet and fresh.

You are so sweet that you make my taste buds explode.

People say they could eat you one million times in one sec.

# Juicy Fruit

Two reasons why you are amazing is because you are sweet and juicy.

Another reason is because when my stomach hurts, I eat you and my stomach feels better.

You taste like a great day and sweet.

You smell fresh and you smell sweet.

You feel smooth, you feel cold, and you also feel hard.

When I eat you, I go on my phone and dance until you are gone.

You are as smooth as a baby.

You are as sweet as a cake.

You are as fresh as grapes.

Thank you, apple.

I am thanking you because you make my tummy feel better.

I was at home in my bed using my phone.

You made me happy.

When I eat you, my life is amazing.

You are sweet, smooth, juicy, and crunchy.

## 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**

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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](http://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, fifth graders explored the power of odes and the fun of using simile, hyperbole, and personification to describe their favorite healthy foods. From magnificent mangoes, spectacular strawberries, and preciously perfect pomegranates, students highlight how their most cherished fruits, vegetables, and dinner dishes “give our days a smile” and make us, “so strong we can lift the world.”



[826VALENCIA.ORG](http://826VALENCIA.ORG)



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