

Name: _____ Teacher: _____ School: _____

Grade 6: Lesson 20 In this lesson, students read and analyzed the poem “Ode to Kao Niew - Sticky Rice” as a companion text to the article, “A Taste of Sticky Rice, Laos’ National Dish.” They focused on how their knowledge built from the informational text makes the poem more accessible and enjoyable.

Ode to Kao Niew - Sticky Rice
By: Krysada Phounsiri

I meet you in Laos
as a seed
just a simple
existence of hard rice
seeded inside Huay Xai’s dirt
until water plains
cradle and nourish your infant body
'till you sprout above water banks
where you tickle yourself
with sunshine
like a child who spends all
day with the wind
when you mature
people pull your roots
carry you in bulk back home
along with your friends
moisten your skin
steam under flames and
boiling water
only a bath where
dirt splashes off
while you try to hold
breaths underwater
your skin does not wrinkle
only softens
to stick with other rice
and sink in perfection
of the basket
where my mother’s hands
shake and shuffle you
into a ball
to roll on a plate
now fully grown ready to
liberate our hunger
with your body

that is how we meet
everyday even now
when I chew you in big bites
you never fail to fill
my head with steam
and make my tummy your
cozy home
sometimes I eat you too fast
you burn my tongue

and mom says
I am crazy for eating too fast
but it don’t matter
when I can cool
squeeze to pebble-size bits
dip you in fish soup
or papaya salad
Kao Niew
my family sits together
on the floor legs folded
or on a dinner table
you cuddle inside our bellies
warm our lips
all
the way
down
our throats
in cold evenings with no heaters
you sacrifice to
fill our stomachs
so we can stick to each other
and swallow
our love whole

Text Analysis T-Chart

Text	Analysis

Independent Practice:

Write an ode about a food that is significant to you.

You may write about the same food that you wrote about in lesson 17, or you can choose a new type of food. Try to make your ode have a deeper meaning like the ode we read today. It wasn't just about sticky rice. It was about the love of a family too. The best poems have layers of meaning. See if you can create that in your writing today.

Make sure that your writing uses the various characteristics of odes that we discussed.

- purpose is to show love for something
- pays tribute to or praises something
- includes figurative language, like personification and simile
- uses descriptive language to explain everyday actions, events, or things
- uses specific word choice to create a positive tone
- may include multiple levels of meaning

Also, feel free to use the poem as an example. Your ode should be at least 20 lines. It may rhyme or be in free verse.

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