



Write a funny food poem

Be inspired by Michael Rosen and find out how to whip up some delicious poetry.

On 13 November it's Michael Rosen Day, and we're getting ready with a feast of fun. Rosen's brilliant poem *Hot Food* is the inspiration for a poetry competition. The challenge is to write your very own funny food poem and you could win a signed library of his books for you and your school. The winners in each age category (five to seven, and eight to 12) will have their poems read out by Rosen at a livestreamed event on Michael Rosen Day itself.

Why food? "Food is funny," Rosen says. "Food is funny when it's too horrible, too nice or too much. It's funny when someone makes a noise eating it, or when people eat food in bed." Rosen says, "Let's write about food, what it looks like, what it tastes like, what we look like when we eat it, what people say about food! Let's write poems we can eat!"

Try these tips from Michael Rosen on how to write your own brilliantly funny food poem. If you'd like to enter the competition, the deadline is 17 October. Ask an adult to help you to find out more at tinyurl.com/TWJ-Rosen-FoodPoem



Look and listen to be inspired

Poems can be inspired by something you see or hear in real life, or in a book or on television. Rosen says, "Do a bit of daydreaming about it and then get writing." It could be a sibling moaning about lunch or seeing butter melt into a crumpet hole – what if you could shrink and dive in? Search the kitchen for inspiration from a favourite snack or a hated ingredient; how would you describe it, how does it make you feel?

Check some other poems

If you're not sure how to start or how to structure your poem, Rosen advises looking at other poems. He says, "Ask yourself why you like it and can you have a go at doing something like that yourself?" For example, if your favourite poem uses rhyming words, you could try that. Does the poem tell a story or express an emotion, like disgust or joy? Try using the same style but your own words.



Pick a memory

If you can't find inspiration in front of you, search your memory. Rosen says, "Daydream for a minute while you focus very hard on a memory. Write the memory down." Another way to use your mind's eye is to pick a moment that bothered you – perhaps an ice cream melted or a seagull stole your chips. Rosen says, "Write about it as if you're a sports commentator and it's happening right now."

Remember the senses

Rosen says you can use any or all of the five senses to write poetry. For a seeing poem, he says, "Pick a place you want to write about; write about the things you can see." A hearing poem could be about the sound of your mum munching cereal. Or try a smelling poem about the aroma of school dinners, a tasting poem describing eating a sour sweet, or a touching/feeling poem about slippery spaghetti.



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