

Poetry Comparison

Introduction

Ask half the children to research Kit Wright and the other half to research Benjamin Zephaniah. Create a flowchart using the information the children uncovered in their research. Let the children read works by both poets. Ask them to recite some of them.

Activity 1: Hot Dog

Recite Kit Wright's "Hot Dog" and discuss the viewpoints that the poem seems to promote. What features of the poem promote these opinions? What does the poem tell us about the dad? What does the poem tell us about the boyfriend? Use the **Hot Dog: Think About It** worksheet to conduct a second, more detailed reading.

Activity 2: Vegan Delight

Recite Benjamin Zephaniah's "Vegan Delight". What question is Zephaniah trying to answer in his poem? Why do you think he is doing this? Is he for or against meat-free diets? How do you know? Use the **Vegan Delight: Think About It** sheet to conduct a second, more detailed reading.

Conclusion

At the end of the lesson, ask the children if there is any way the dad and the boyfriend in "Hot Dog" could become friendlier towards each other. Do any of the vegetarians or vegans in the class find it difficult to describe to meat-eaters what they eat? Explain. Do any meat-eaters empathise with the dad? Explain.

What unfamiliar foods did you see listed in "Vegan Delight"? Does anyone know what these are?

Background

This lesson uses poetry in a light-hearted way to look at two contrasting views of meat-free lifestyles.

Learning Objectives

Children should learn the following:

- To read two poems fluently, with expression
- To compare the styles of English used
- To discuss what the poems express about meat-free diets

Accompanying Materials

- Poetry Comparison (student handout)
- Hot Dog: Think About It (student worksheet)
- Vegan Delight: Think About It (student worksheet)





Poetry Comparison

Hot Dog

By Kit Wright

My Dad can't stand my sister's latest
boyfriend.
Boring?

When he comes round, even the dog
Starts snoring.

Our hamster crawls back in beneath
His straw. Dad grits his teeth.

Our budgie

Folds his wings and shuts up shop.
Dad's eyelids drop.

Boring?

What he goes on about
Is Being A Vegetarian.
His line is 'Meat is Out'
And his line doesn't vary an
Inch. It goes like this:

GIVE HAMBURGERS A MISS!

EVERYONE IS MISTAKEN
WHO EVER EATS BACON!

THE ENTIRE WORLD SHOULD STOP
FANCYING A PORK CHOP!

He's utterly convinced
Of the evil of beef, minced.

If he were God, he'd damn
All lamb. And ham. And spam.

What's best, he says, for you
Is lentil-and-seaweed stew.

He feels all meals should be:

Lentil-and-seaweed
Stew for breakfast,
Seaweed-and-lentil
Stew for tea.

Oh, he's sincere all right:
You couldn't doubt it.
But why must he

Go on and on
And on and on
About it?

My Dad can't stand my sister's latest
boyfriend.
Boring?

Last night I really thought
That Dad would hit him.
What happened was the dog
Woke up and bit him.

My sister was really mad.
They stormed out. Dad

Sat stroking the dog and murmuring
Over and over again,
'Who's a good boy, who's a good boy,

Who's a good dog, then?'

**From *Hot Dog and Other Poems*,
Puffin Books (1982) Reproduced by
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Vegan Delight

By Benjamin Zephaniah

Ackees, chapatties
Dumplings an nan,
Channa an rotis
Onion uttapam,
Masala dosa
Green callaloo
Bhel an samosa
Corn an aloo.
Yam an cassava
Pepperpot stew,
Rotlo an guava
Rice an tofu,
Puri, paratha
Sesame casserole,
Brown eggless pasta
An brown bread rolls.

Soya milked muesli
Soya bean curd,
Soya sweet sweeties
Soya's de word,
Soya bean margarine

Soya bean sauce,
What can mek medicine?
Soya of course.

Soya meks yoghurt
Soya ice-cream,
Or soya sorbet
Soya reigns supreme,
Soya sticks liquoriced
Soya salads
Try any soya dish
Soya is bad.

Plantain an tabouli
Cornmeal pudding
Onion bhajee
Wid plenty cumin,
Breadfruit an coconuts
Molasses tea
Dairy free omelettes
Very chilli.
Ginger bread, nut roast
Sorrell, paw paw,
Cocoa an rye toast
I tek dem on tour,

Drinking cool maubi
Meks me feel sweet,
What was dat question now?
What do we eat?

**From *Talking Turkeys*, Puffin Books
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permission of Benjamin Zephaniah**





Think About It: Hot Dog

by Kit Wright

What is the poem about?	
What does Dad do when the boyfriend comes round?	
Why does Dad dislike the boyfriend?	
What foods are mentioned in the poem?	
What is the boyfriend's message?	
Do you think the boyfriend only eats lentils and seaweed?	
Do you take the dad's or the boyfriend's side? Why?	
Does the poem rhyme? If you think it does, which words do you think rhyme?	
What do you think the sister will say when she comes back?	
Do you like the poem? Why or why not?	
Write an alternative ending to the poem after the line "Woke up and bit him". (Six lines)	



Think About It: Vegan Delight by Benjamin Zephaniah

What is the poem about?	
What "mood" does the poem convey?	
List all the foods in the poem that you're familiar with.	
List all the foods in the poem that you're unfamiliar with.	
List all the words in the poem that aren't part of standard English.	
Why is soya mentioned so often?	
Why does Benjamin Zephaniah refer to eggless pasta?	
What do you think a dairy-free omelette is?	
Can you list five more vegan foods?	
Does the poem rhyme? If you think it does, which words do you think rhyme?	
Do you like the poem? Why or why not?	
Write a short poem (no more than 16 lines long) of all the Meat Free Monday foods you like and call it "My MFM Delight".	