

A feast of poetry

A selection
of Food poems
for performance

Springboard Stories would like to thank the following poets for permission to include their poems in this resource.

Debjani Chatterjee

Brian D'Arcy

Peter Dixon

Kevin McCann

Brian Moses

Joshua Seigal

Celia Warren

Treat of a sweet

Jelly A'Quiver shivered a shiver,
when sighting a sight of pure delight:
lolly pop slopping ice cream topping.
It splashed it about, shouted a shout:
"A treat of a sweet for all to eat!"
With pineapple crushed, the cherries blushed,
orange segments smiled, peaches went wild,
macho pistachios grew moustachios,
walnuts and peanuts, but me no buts,
but melt with no trace, fruit and nutcase.

By Debjani Chatterjee

Red Hot Chilly Pepper

A glowing beauty,
Glossy, smooth and burning bright,
Biting fire within,
A chilly exploding hot,
My love is a red pepper.

By Debjani Chatterjee

Debjani Chatterjee is an Indian-born poet, children's writer, storyteller, editor and translator. Debjani lives in Sheffield. She has written and edited more than 50 books including Springboard Stories' *Monkey King's Party*. Her poetry and translations have won major awards and she was awarded an MBE in 2008 for services to literature. You can contact Debjani by email at debjani@chatterjee.freemove.co.uk

Who am I?

I'm not made of jelly
and I'm not a fish,
so don't try to eat me
with chips in a dish.

And speaking of jelly
I'm not fit to eat
with ice-cream or custard
as your special treat.

But one thing is certain
when you're on the beach
be careful when swimming,
stay out of my reach.

I bristle with danger
in poisonous stings.
And I'm on the lookout
for edible things.

(Answer: jellyfish)

By Brian D'Arcy

Catfish Curry

The cook was in a frightful hurry
to finish off his latest curry.
Attracted by the smell of fish
the cat fell down into the dish.
Alas, the curry tasted furry!

By Brian D'Arcy

Brian D'Arcy is an Anglo-Irish poet who lives with his wife, the poet Debjani Chatterjee, in Sheffield. They co-edited *Let's Celebrate! Festival Poems from around the World* and the forthcoming *Let's Play! Poems about Games and Sports from around the World*, both from Frances Lincoln Children's Books.

I'd like to be a teabag

I'd like to be a teabag,
And stay at home all day -
And talk to other teabags
In a teabag sort of way . . .

I'd love to be a teabag;
And lie in a little box -
And never have to wash my face
Or change my dirty socks . . .

I'd like to be a teabag,
An Earl Grey one perhaps,
And doze all day and lie around
With Earl Grey kind of chaps.

I wouldn't have to do a thing,
No homework, jobs or chores -
Comfy in my caddy
Of teabags and their snores.

I wouldn't have to do exams
I needn't tidy rooms,
Or sweep the floor or feed the cat
Or wash up all the spoons.

I wouldn't have to do a thing,
A life of bliss - you see . . .
Except that once in all my life
I'd make a cup of tea!

By Peter Dixon

Peter Dixon is a poet, performer, and educationalist. He has contributed to more than 100 anthologies and has had seven collections of his own work published by Macmillan. He is a former primary school teacher and lecturer and is available for school visits. Visit Peter's website at www.peterdixon.org.

My Mum (for Chris)

Calls it
Spaceman's Relish
And she
Zaps it
In a blender
Drowns it
In gravy
Mashes it
With potatoes
Hides it
Under chips
Scatters it
With sweetcorn
Nukes it
In the microwave
And follows it
With ice-cream

But
It's
Still
Cabbage !

By Kevin McCann

Kevin McCann is a poet, writer and broadcaster who has contributed to more than 30 anthologies. A former English and drama teacher, and lecturer in Creative Writing, Kevin has also worked as a writer in schools and on a variety of writing projects with looked-after children. He lives in Liverpool. Visit Kevin's website at www.kevinmccann.co.uk.

The Food Obstacle Race

For school sports day this year,
how about trying something different?

Try skipping with spaghetti
or leaping through lasagne,
diving into doughnuts
or cartwheeling in ketchup.

Try jumping into jelly
or battling through bolognese,
somersaulting into sultanas
or zooming through zabaglione.

Try rowing through rice pudding
or making waves in mayonnaise,
weightlifting watermelons
or tiptoeing through tagliatelle.

Try pole-vaulting with pepperoni
or bouncing on boiled eggs,
stepping in salsa sauce
or sprinting through salad cream.

And then you should see if your teachers
are up for this challenge too.

The teachers' race will be much more fun
if they do this event just like you!

By Brian Moses

Brian Moses is one of Britain's best-loved children's poets. He has written and edited around 200 books for children and teachers and has sales of more than 1 million poetry books. Brian is available for school visits and can offer a range of activities and workshops. Find out more at www.brianmoses.co.uk.

Musical fruit

Imagine fruit that sings to you
before you eat it!

Imagine bananas
bringing you a lilting reggae tune
from the Caribbean

or oranges
rocking and rolling around the room.

Imagine a watermelon
shrieking out some heavy metal

or a plum
whistling a Beethoven symphony.

Grapes could form a choir,
a pair of pears could sing harmony.

Tangerines
could do mean Elvis impersonations
while kiwi fruits do karaoke to Kylie.

Imagine opera
brought to you from the fruit bowl,
limes, strawberries, raspberries, cherries
all making merry with musicals.

How marvellous it would be
hearing such healthy cacophony!

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Don't Go To The Cake Shop!

Legs of frog
Tail of rat
Paws of dog
Whiskers of cat
Slime of slug
Shell of snail
Pin of porcupine
Blubber of whale
Beaver's tongue
Lion's mane
Bark from a tree
Goo from the drain
Scales of snake
And beak of puffin –
That's what goes into
A blueberry muffin.

By Joshua Seigal

Joshua Seigal is a poet, performer and workshop leader from Barnet, London. He writes and performs mainly for primary-aged children. His performances are fun, educational and interactive, and are intended to demonstrate that poetry can be about much more than simply reading and writing: it can also be about listening, watching, participating and enjoying! Find out more at www.joshuaseigal.co.uk.

Johnny And The MANGO!

Johnny wouldn't eat his tea
His mum had given him celery
Which Johnny didn't want, you see
All Johnny liked was MANGO!

Johnny wouldn't eat his lunch
His mum had given him Monster
Munch
But Johnny wanted a bowl of punch
Made with lots and lots of MANGO!

Johnny wouldn't eat his sandwich
It had cheese and it had ham with
Peanut butter and strawberry jam
But Johnny wanted MANGO!

Now Jonny liked his mango
It was his favourite fruit
He liked it more than chocolate
And more than his pet newt
He really loved his mango
And you might just start to laugh
When I tell you where he ate it –
He ate it in the bath!

Johnny's mum said "have a shower"
But Johnny gave an angry glower
He wanted a bath at this wee hour
So he could eat his MANGO!

So Johnny got himself undressed
He took off his socks, took off his
vest
And went to the kitchen and made a
mess
Looking for some MANGO!

Johnny went into the larder
He reached for the shelf – Harder!
Harder!
He knew just what he was after
He was trying to find a MANGO!

And then.....

Johnny found a mango
And hid it from his mum
And went into the bathroom
So he could have some fun
He ran himself a nice hot bath
Now he was really free
And he got into the water
And had MANGO for his tea!

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Cake-o-saurus

Why don't we bake
a dinosaur cake
and call it Munchosaurus:

Give it horns
of ice-cream cones
and call it Crunchosaurus.

Why don't we bake
a dinosaur cake
and call it Stickisaurus:

Add gingernut eyes
and buttercream thighs
and call it Bickisaurus.

Why don't we bake
a dinosaur cake
and call it whatever we think:

Then let it cool
and eat it all
until it is extinct.

By Celia Warren

Landscape

My potato is an island.
The gravy is the sea.
The peas are people swimming;
The biggest one is me.

My carrots are whales
That make the sea wavy,
But the big brown blobs
Are LUMPS in the gravy!

By Celia Warren

Celia Warren has been writing poems ever since she could read them. Celia believes that there's nothing on earth (or beyond) that can't be turned into a poem with a little imagination, so finds inspiration everywhere. She loves writing about animals, people and places, fantasy worlds and made-up creatures. She also enjoys using word-play. Celia is available for school visits – find out more at: <http://celiawarren.wordpress>.