

FOOD MEANS HOME

Writing Workshop with Raych Jackson

A LITTLE BIT ABOUT ME

- Go by Raych
- Used to teach in Chicago Public Schools for five years
- Currently a freelance social media marketer, writer and content creator
- A new dog mom!

LET'S GET STARTED!

- Make a list of your favorite food to buy and where you get it from
 - Ex: instead of “pizza” “pepperoni and sausage pizza from Tony’s”
- Make a list of your favorite meals and when you eat it
 - Ex: granny’s mac and cheese on Christmas
 - Ex: frozen Tostitos pizza pockets at midnight

ODE TO CHEESE FRIES BY JOSE OLIVAREZ

golden goo of artificial delicious
what probably lines
my stomach with sunlike grease for weeks after
eating the yellow
so yellow it could only be manufactured so what
if it's fake
as much cheese content as Apple Jolly Ranchers
i come from
a city of foreclosure empty lot city
where we got
dollar store brand action figures so what
my Wolverine didn't
have retractable claws or the right uniform

so my joy
at Pano's my favorite fried everything spot
the cashier's voice
a box of Newports filtered through throat
i didn't know
i would miss this home where the patties
come from freezers
and maybe not ever from cows or even animals
i live in
a city that brags about it's organic fair trade
quinoa fed beef
of course i miss the '90s pop playing the restaurant
the Backstreet Boys
live in Cal City where the band never breaks up
the song plays
on repeat as the cashier takes my order say it with me
cheese fries please

give me everything artificial including cardboard fries
the bread fresh
out of some Walmart cloning experiment throw in
a cold pop
i want a joy so fake it stains my insides and
never fades away

YOU GOT YOUR FAVORITE LINES NOW LET'S TALK!

- What joy does cheese fries bring the author?
- How does where the author get the cheese fries add to the joy?

PROMPT

Go back to your lists.

Write a poem DECLARING your love for your favorite food AND the environment it's in.

It's not an ode to mac and cheese- it's an ode to mac and cheese at your granny's house on christmas day.

SHARE OUT?

BACK TO OUR LISTS!

- Make a list of rules you were raised to follow while eating at home.
- What rules do you follow when eating out/or around new people?
- Make a list of things that show someone has bad manners.

LOOK, I'M NOT GOOD AT EATING CHICKEN BY FATIMAH ASGHAR

& yes, my family did raise me right. Yes
they stripped their bones & cracked them clean
open to suck. Would fight over cartilage & knuckle.
Sip the marrow's nectar from urn. Yes, I watched.
Yes, I'll teach my children the same. To savor
the sound of their teeth against bone pulling & pulling
always in search of more. But right now I'm eating alone
in a strange city with money in my pocket
no children waiting to be fed or taught. Meat on the bones,
skin in the trash. Joints a trap of bird & muscle
wanting to be chewed. Let me be young & disrespectful.
Let me leave my plate an unfinished slaughter.
Let me spend & eat until I, no one else, says I'm done.

YOU GOT YOUR FAVORITE LINES NOW LET'S TALK!

- Why doesn't the author finish her food?
- Let's focus on the words she uses to describe chicken.

PROMPT

Let's return to our list of bad manners.

Choose bad manners and defend it like the author defended not finishing her plate.

SHARE OUT?

EKPHRASTIC

An ekphrastic poem is “a vivid description of a scene or, more commonly, a work of art.” according to Poetry Foundation.



- Write as the person getting this order.
 - Reactions
 - On the outside looking in
 - Person that ordered the food
 - Describe the food
 - Imagery