Don’t Play With Your Food! resulted from a case of writer’s block. Unable to come up with a story idea, Brian looked at the table in front of him and noticed a plastic salt and pepper set. He asked himself what would they be doing if he wasn’t there spying on them, and the answer became the poem “A Spicy Romance.” Your students can also find inspiration by looking at everyday items from a new perspective.

Play With Your Food:

Have your students write a short poem from the perspective of a piece of fruit. They can focus on growing from a seed, or hanging from a tree all day, or hanging out in a fruit bowl or even being eaten! You can use this same exercise in perspective to write about anything: chairs, books, desks, backpacks, lunchboxes, even teachers!

Food is a great way to introduce different cultures. Ask your students if they or anyone they know has been to another country. Ask them if they know about the foods in those countries. Students may be surprised to learn that they eat squid in Japan or kangaroo in Australia or even alligator in Louisiana. Have students write a poem including kinds of food from two or three or more countries.

Have students pick their favorite food and write a short poem about it. They can include its color, shape, size. They can explain why it’s better than other foods. They can see how many words rhyme with their favorite food and just make a rhyming, nonsense poem.