

Mouthwatering Menus

Submitted by Candice Dunn; From: www.nwrel.org

Traits: Word Choice, Conventions

Grade Level: Early Elementary (1-3), Late Elementary (4-5),
Middle School (6-8), High School (9-12)

Time: One class period

Supplies:

- Menus from restaurants
- Writing supplies

Lesson Description:

- 1) Begin with a discussion regarding students restaurant experience and selection of food. Ask questions like "How do you decide what to order in a restaurant?", "What kind of restaurants do you like?", "What is your favorite kind of food?"
- 2) Share menus emphasizing the descriptions given to various dishes. Some use "adjective piling" while others rely on hyperbole. Many menu descriptions focus on the ingredients used in a particular dish. Have some fun with this.
- 3) Students write descriptions for their own menu items. It could be for an entree, a salad, a dessert, a fast food restaurant. The focus is on choosing the right adjectives for sensory appeal.
- 4) You could publish these in a classroom menu using a fun restaurant title such as Chateau Candice.
- 5) An adaptation could be to take a school lunch menu and describe the daily offerings in a way that they would appeal to the most reluctant eater.