

Expository Essay

The assignment was an attempt at motivating eighth-grade students to write an expository essay from a little more creative point of view. They were to research a question of interest **and create a children's book whose audience was either kindergarten through second grade or third grade through fifth grade.** This novel is for a K-2 audience. These novels would be published and sent to the grade school in the district from which that student came. The results? I watched creativity blossom. Each student was highly invested in not only researching the question but in presentation of the results in a creative form.



Author: Jessica Zizzo
Illustrator: Jessica Zizzo

Rocco the Red Pepper and Peter the Pickle, did everything together. They ice-skated together, they baked cookies together, they went to the play ground together, and they even grew up in the same garden.



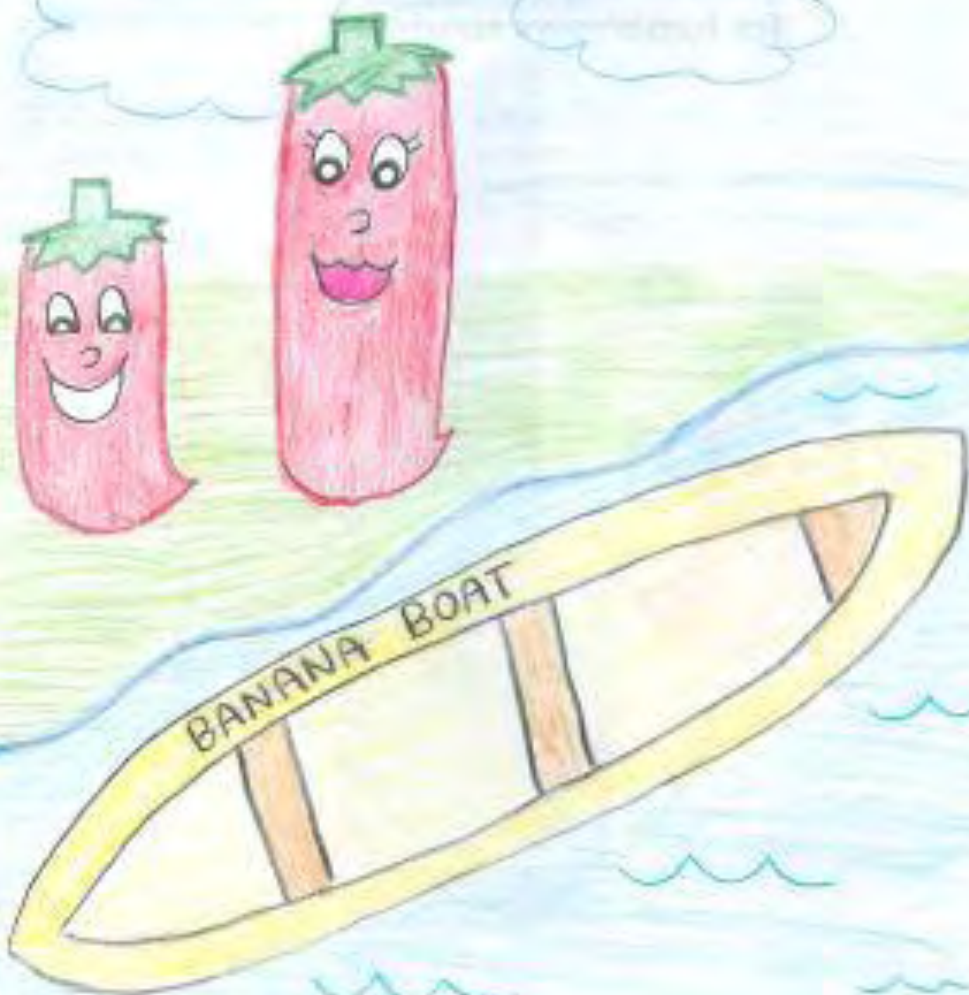
One day Rocco became curious of why Peter was different than him, so he asked his Mother. Rocco's Mother said Peter was born a cucumber, she said he is born on vines just like Gunther the Grape.



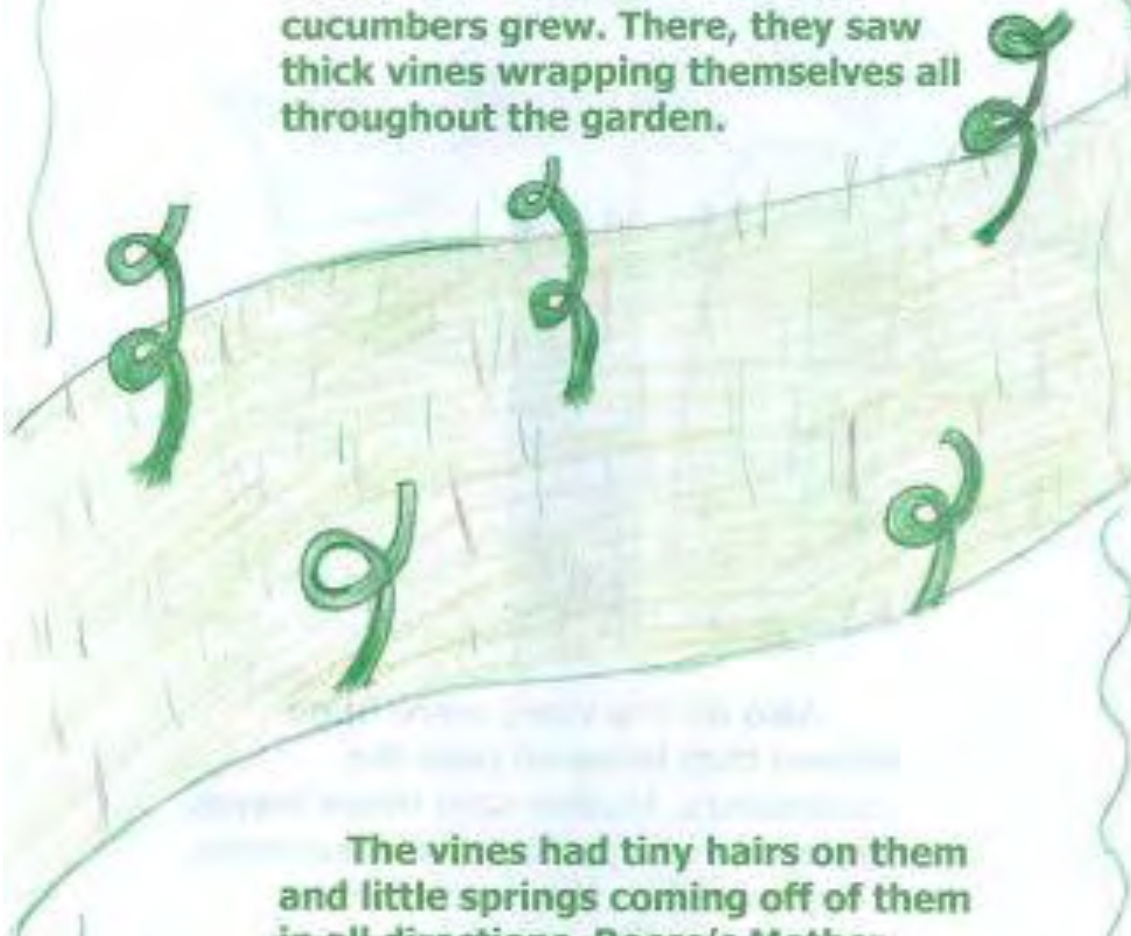
Then Rocco's Mother promised she would show him the cucumbers in the morning; she was going to take him to the Family Farm. She then sent Rocco off to bed with a glass of warm milk, and excitement for tomorrow's sunrise!



When Rocco woke up, he and his Mother jumped into their banana boat and sailed down stream to the Family Farm.



When they arrived, Gilda the Goose flew them to where the cucumbers grew. There, they saw thick vines wrapping themselves all throughout the garden.



The vines had tiny hairs on them and little springs coming off of them in all directions. Rocco's Mother explained these little springs are called tendrils.



Also on the vines were huge leaves that hovered over the cucumbers. Mother said these leaves were there to protect the cucumbers. They were like tiny tents for the cucumbers. The cucumbers were green like Peter and were all sizes and lengths.

Then Rocco's Mother asked if he understood where pickles came from, but Rocco still wasn't quite sure. He didn't understand how Peter could be a pickle and a cucumber.



Gilda said Peter isn't a pickle and a cucumber, he is a pickled cucumber. She also said she could fly them to where the pickles are made, it's right over AppleBlossom Hill. Rocco and his Mother jumped onto Gilda's back and she flew them to where the pickles are made.



As they came to the pickling farm, Gilda said these pickles were made in one of the many ways of pickling. She said the pickles were refrigerated. She explained to Rocco that after the cucumbers were cleaned they were put into large containers. Rocco saw the containers and they were really big, much bigger than Rocco's banana boat.



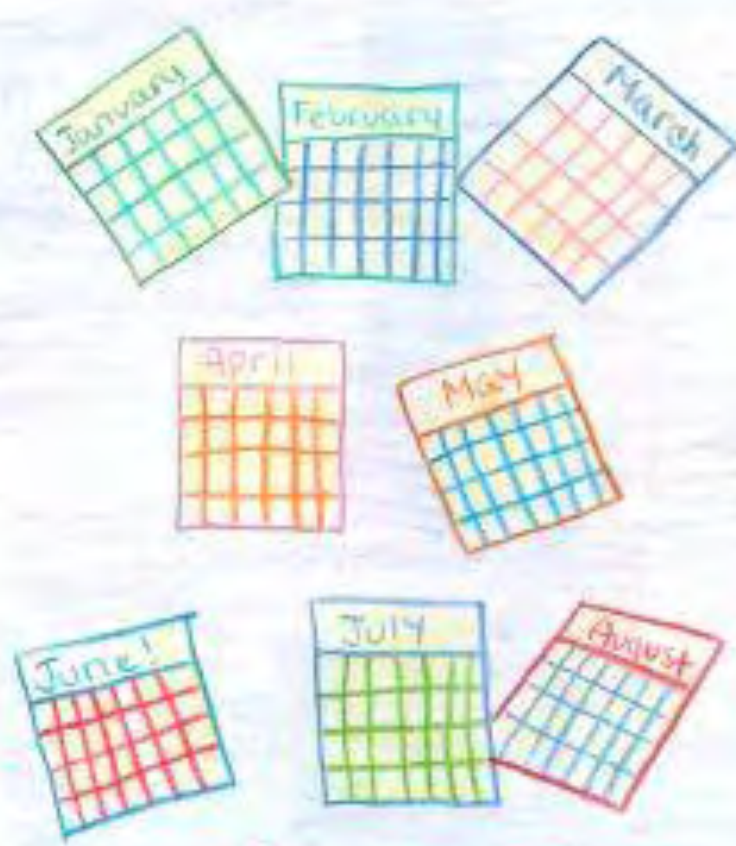
Gilda said the pickles were then covered with a spiced mixture, she told Rocco you can use many spices to pickle food. Some spices are dill, garlic, celery seed, bay leaves, horseradish, and even cinnamon.



She also said pickling was a way of keeping food fresh, and you can pickle many foods such as cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, peaches, and even Rocco, a red pepper! Rocco thought it was silly that he could be pickled.

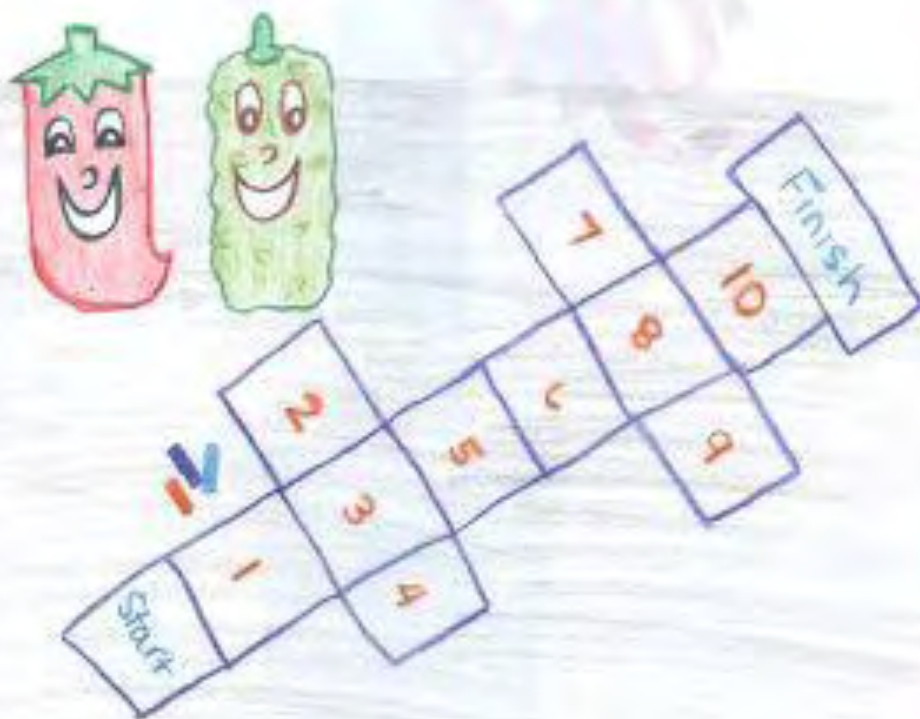


Gilda said the container was then put in the refrigerator for eight months for it to soak up all the spices, which gave the pickle a very strong and crisp taste. "That's a long time!" thought Rocco.



PICKLES ARE DONE!

Rocco felt much better now that he knew how pickles are made, Rocco felt so great he asked his mother if he could call Peter the Pickle to play! Rocco's mother dropped him off at Peter's house, where they played happily ever after.



Room felt much better now that
he knew how thick and heavy
Room felt so much he said his
Mother it he could call Ryan the
first to go to Ryan's Mother
to get it off a long
to the other side

The End

PiCkLe FuN FaCts

- Pickles were brought to America by Christopher Columbus.
- Thomas Jefferson thought pickles were perfect on a hot day in Virginia.
- 5,200,000 pounds of pickles are eaten in the U.S. every year.
- In the year 2000, when the Philadelphia Eagles beat the Dallas Cowboys, the players said they won from drinking pickle juice before the game.
- Steven Trotter survived the Niagara Falls by hiding inside two plastic pickle barrels with rubber inner tubes.
- It takes 4 billion pickles to reach the moon, therefore the amount of pickles the U.S. eats a year could reach the moon and back.

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I'M IN A PICKLE!

Rocco the Red Pepper is in a pickle! He wonders why his best friend Peter the Pickle is so different than he is, but with the help from his Mother and Gilda the Goose, Rocco realizes Peter is only different on the outside, and just like him on the inside. Join Rocco in this wonderful adventure, and find out what a pickle really is!