

44

Recipe Poems

Recipe poems are a great way to report on a historical event or scientific process. Tool 5 (study the verbs) will help you to make a poem that sizzles with truth and humor.

SETUP:

Look at some recipes. Study the verbs in them and make a list. Some examples are bake, stir, beat, whip, mash, fold, puree, and mince. Notice how a recipe is composed of two basic parts: a list of ingredients with measurements for each amount and a paragraph of directions telling you what to do with those ingredients. Read several recipes to capture some of the buzz phrases that repeat and are standard recipe language. List some of these. For example:

Cut into even squares and serve.

Bake at a low heat.

Brown in the oven and serve.

Fold in egg whites until mixture is light and fluffy.

Next, go to the index of a recipe book and list some of the different names for items that appear: blueberry buckle, pancakes, soufflés, brownies.

PUNCH:

Now take your facts and create one of the concoctions. Begin by giving it a name. For example: Constitution Cookies, Crebb Cycle Punch, or Feudal Cakes.

When you choose your ingredients, look at your facts and choose amounts that seem to correspond with your research. For example, if I were making Civil Rights Preserves, I might start with one cup Emancipation Proclamation (the document that freed the slaves) and I might add three teaspoons Declaration of Independence and 100 marchers.

The truer your information, the funnier and more powerful your recipe poem will be. Get your facts straight and have fun writing your recipe poem.

Funny Tip:

Before writing your recipe poem, spend time looking through recipe books and copying down the names of things. Look at the index in the back of the

book. Pick a type of dish that starts with the same letter as your subject. When words that follow each other begin with the same letter, this is called "alliteration." Most of the time, using alliteration will make your recipe funnier. Paramecium Punch, anyone?

Example:

Suffragette Soufflé

1 U.S. Constitution
1 large male-dominated democracy
30 dozen intelligent women
1 Seneca Falls conference
1/2 cup Susan B. Anthony
1/2 cup Elizabeth Cady Stanton
1 tsp. "Ain't I a Woman" speech by
Sojourner Truth
1/2 tsp Oregon, Kansas, and Arizona
10,000 women and 500 men
500,000 onlookers
1 World War
1/4 cup hypocritical President Woodrow Wilson
1/4 cup helpful House of Representatives
1 pinch stalled Senate
36 ratifying states
1 Nineteenth Amendment



Pre-heat oven to 1920
Read Constitution and set aside
Separate intelligent women from Large Male dominated society
Add Seneca Falls conference and whip women together until frothy
Combine Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton
Add Sojourner Truth "Ain't I A Woman," speech
In a separate bowl, combine Constitution with Oregon, Kansas and Arizona
Stir in marching women, marching men and one half million onlookers
Add in hypocritical President Wilson and World War
Sprinkle in helpful House of Representatives and pinch of stalled Senate
Fold in all ingredients and pour into large pan, greased for over 70 years
Bake in oven with 36 ratifying states and one fresh 19th amendment.
Cut into to equal slices.
Serves over 100 million US women