

Storytime Activities from Greenwood Books

Jorge Argueta's bilingual cooking poems make delicious, healthy foods a reason to dance and sing. The poems use simple but imaginative language to bring the kitchen to life.

Before You Read

Ask the children in your group what their favorite foods are to make and eat. Then read the story aloud.

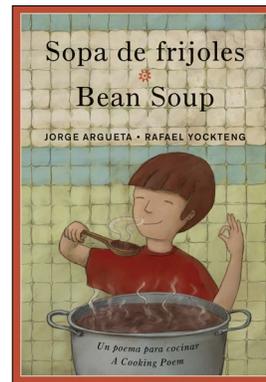
While You're Reading

Birds appear in each of the books in the cooking poem series. Have your group look for these beautiful feathered friends – encourage your group to find them all.

After You Read

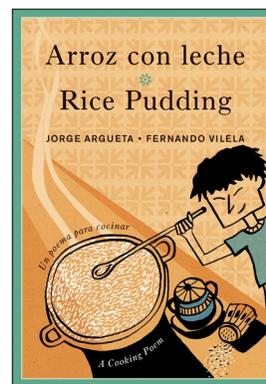
1 Choose one of the foods your group named before you started reading. Ask the children to identify all of the parts of that food (e.g., for a hamburger: bun, beef patty, tomato, lettuce, cheese). Next, ask your group to name (or guess) where these things come from. Do they grow in the ground like a potato, or in a tree like an apple? Do they come from an animal, like beef, or are they made from something that comes from an animal, like cheese? *Science and Technology.*

2 Arrange the children into small groups, and within each group assign each child the role of a food that is prepared in the poem, and one or more child to be the cook. For example, to make guacamole have children pretend to be avocados, limes and cilantro while one or more child acts out the scooping, squeezing and tearing to put all the ingredients together. Tell the children to be sure to act out each small step



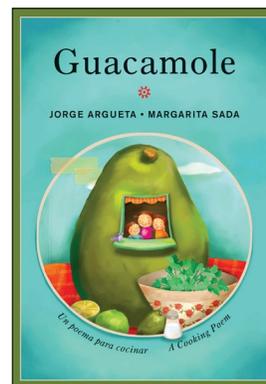
Sopa de frijoles / Bean Soup

Written by Jorge Argueta,
Illustrated by Rafael
Yockteng
978-0-88899-881-1
Hardcover \$18.95
Ages 4 to 7, Grades K to 2



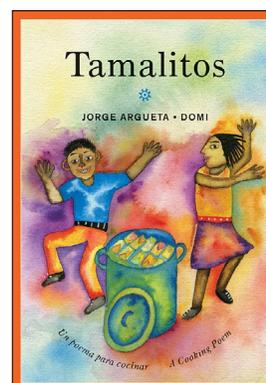
Arroz con leche / Rice Pudding

Written by Jorge Argueta,
Illustrated by Fernando Vilela
978-0-88899-981-8
Hardcover \$18.95
Ages 4 to 7, Grades K to 2



Guacamole

Written by Jorge Argueta,
Illustrated by Margarita Sada
978-1-55498-133-5
<format price>
Ages 4 to 7, Grades K to 2



Tamalitos

Written by Jorge Argueta,
Illustrated by Domi
978-1-55498-300-1
<format price>
Ages 4 to 7, Grades K to 2

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of the recipe. Even beans simmering in a pot is an important role to play — imagine the flames dancing beneath the pot, and the beans dancing together inside. Remember that food tastes better when you sing and dance. *Drama.*

3 Make a list of all the ingredients that have definite measurements in one or more of the poems (e.g., for rice pudding you would include ‘two cups of rice’ but not ‘some cinnamon sticks’).



For a younger group:

Using measuring cups and spoons, have the children measure out these amounts (of blocks or beads, for example) to see how much of each ingredient goes into each recipe.

For an older group:

How much of each ingredient they would need in order to double the recipe? To halve it? *Mathematics*

4 Organize the children into small groups and ask each group to pick a word they like from the English text of the poem. They can work together to find (or guess) the same word in the Spanish text. Each child could then write the two words together on a sheet of paper and draw a picture of the word they have chosen to be displayed around the classroom. Take the class on a tour of these words. *Language.*

5 Food is an important part of many holidays and celebrations. Have the children in your group name some of their favorite holidays and the foods they eat at each one. Ask them why they think these particular foods are tied to the celebration. Have your children form small groups and have each of them design an invitation to a holiday party and include drawings of foods that will be eaten at the party. *Social Studies; The Arts.*



6 Jorge Argueta’s cooking poems are all about the fun of cooking and eating together. With your group of children, plan a special feast that might include some of the delicious foods found in these poems. You could make up your own holiday, based on something special to your group, to celebrate.

Ask children to bring something for the group to share from home – encourage them to cook with their families if they can. You could even make a simple food that doesn’t involve adding heat (like guacamole) in the classroom.

