

Resources for Hampshire Young Poets Competition 2026

Theme: Food

Closes: 22/05/26

Info: www.winchesterpoetryfestival.org/young-poets-competition



ECONOMICAL ICE CREAMS

As cream was still unobtainable, all ice creams had to be based on substitutes, particularly evaporated milk, which was obtainable on the points system. 'Cream' made with a cream-making machine was rather too solid for a good texture, but you could mix some of this with evaporated milk, as in Rich Vanilla Ice Cream, left. In order to get a smooth mixture one needed a fairly high percentage of fat, so canned evaporated milk had to be used undiluted. The best result was obtained by whipping the evaporated milk, which made it a better colour and texture. Whipping evaporated milk is quite a long process. First, put the unopened can into a saucepan of water, making sure the can is completely immersed. Allow the water to boil for 15 minutes. Check from time to time that there is sufficient water, adding more boiling water, if necessary. Remove the can from the water and chill for some hours. Open the can, pour the milk into a large bowl and whisk until light and fluffy.

An even better texture is given by carefully opening the can after 15 minutes' boiling, pouring the hot milk into a container then adding 1 teaspoon gelatine, dissolved in 2 tablespoons water.

Chill well for some hours then whip.

The recipes on this page are based upon 1 x 14 oz (400 g) can of evaporated milk, whipped with, or without, the gelatine.

These pages are from a book called Victory Cookbook: Nostalgic Food and Facts from 1940-1954 by Marguerite Patten OBE. This is from a time just after the Second World War and there wasn't much food to go around. People had to be 'innovative' and create dishes without many of the ingredients being readily available. Have a look at the recipe for making ice-cream without using any cream.

If you were to make your own flavour of ice-cream, what would it be? What ingredients would you use? They don't need to be edible ingredients.

Think of creating some magical ice-cream flavours. Think about how this flavour would be unique to you, your personality, or your hobbies.

Perhaps it's a musical ice-cream cone. What ingredients would you use to make it musical? A dash of piano scales? A pinch of nursery rhymes? A pint of 'In the Night Garden' theme song?

Or it could be a football flavoured ice-cream. What would you add to it? Where would you sell it? Or who would you share it with?

You could make it fun. You could make it thoughtful. It should be something that reflects your choices and why you'd want to create this ice-cream flavour for others to enjoy.

If you are stuck for ideas of flavours, have a look at this poem, but try and create your own fantastically magically delicious flavours!

Bleezer's Ice Cream

[Jack Prelutsky](#)

I am Ebenezer Bleezer,
I run BLEEZER'S ICE CREAM STORE,
there are flavors in my freezer
you have never seen before,
twenty-eight divine creations
too delicious to resist,
why not do yourself a favor,
try the flavors on my list:

COCOA MOCHA MACARONI
TAPIOCA SMOKED BALONEY
CHECKERBERRY CHEDDAR CHEW
CHICKEN CHERRY HONEYDEW
TUTTI-FRUTTI STEWED TOMATO
TUNA TACO BAKED POTATO
LOBSTER LITCHI LIMA BEAN
MOZZARELLA MANGOSTEEN
ALMOND HAM MERINGUE SALAMI
YAM ANCHOVY PRUNE PASTRAMI
SASSAFRAS SOUVLAKI HASH
SUKIYAKI SUCCOTASH

BUTTER BRICKLE PEPPER PICKLE
POMEGRANATE PUMPERNICKEL
PEACH PIMENTO PIZZA PLUM
PEANUT PUMPKIN BUBBLEGUM
BROCCOLI BANANA BLUSTER
CHOCOLATE CHOP SUEY CLUSTER
AVOCADO BRUSSELS SPROUT
PERIWINKLE SAUERKRAUT
COTTON CANDY CARROT CUSTARD
CAULIFLOWER COLA MUSTARD
ONION DUMPLING DOUBLE DIP
TURNIP TRUFFLE TRIPLE FLIP
GARLIC GUMBO GRAVY GUAVA
LENTIL LEMON LIVER LAVA
ORANGE OLIVE BAGEL BEET
WATERMELON WAFFLE WHEAT

I am Ebenezer Bleezer,
I run BLEEZER'S ICE CREAM STORE,
taste a flavor from my freezer,
you will surely ask for more.

From *The New Kid on the Block*, published by Greenwillow, 1984.

[Bleezer's Ice Cream by Jack Prelutsky - Poems | Academy of American Poets](#)

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Look at this poem by Moniza Alvi – she describes the food like landscapes. She’s also describing a special meal, perhaps for a party or a festival.

Food for Special Occasions

Indian Cooking (1993) by Moniza Alvi

The bottom of the pan was a palette–
paprika, cayenne, dhania
haldi, heaped like powder-paints.

Melted ghee made lakes, golden rivers.
The keema frying, my mother waited
for the fat to bubble to the surface.

Friends brought silver-leaf.
I dropped it on khir–
special rice pudding for parties.

I tasted the landscape, customs
of my father’s country–
its fever on biting a chilli.

Poem © by Moniza Alvi from Split World: Poems 1990 - 2005 (Bloodaxe Books, 2008)

[Poetry By Heart | Indian Cooking](#)

What special occasion would you like to write a poem about, focusing on the food? What celebration food is your favourite? Can you describe it but also add some details about the particular festival or special occasion you’re talking about?

You can add words from different languages if you speak a language other than English like this poem does. Also, it doesn’t necessarily have to be about food humans eat!

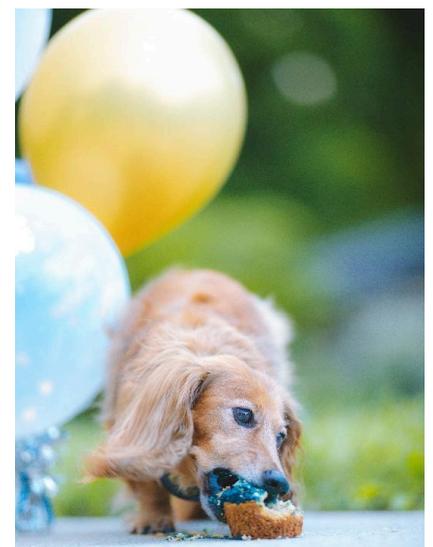
Look at this poem about eating on a special occasion!

The Dog Ate Our Dinner by Kenn Nesbitt

The table was set for Thanksgiving this year.
Our aunts and our uncles and cousins were here.
Our parents had put out our holiday feast,
and that’s when our doggy turned into a beast.



Photo by Gaurav Kumar on Unsplash



He jumped on the table and wolfed down the hams.
He polished off all the potatoes and yams.
He gobbled the turkey, the gravy, and greens,
then swallowed the stuffing and all the green beans.

He crammed down the cranberry sauce and the rolls,
and licked every morsel of food from the bowls.
And, when we at last got ahold of our dog,
his lips were still dripping with pie and eggnog.

It's sort of a shame, but it's totally clear
we're going to have to be careful next year
if we want some pie or potatoes or meat,
since this year we only have dog food to eat.

[The Dog Ate Our Dinner – Kenn Nesbitt's Poetry4kids.com](#)

Photo by [Reba Spike](#) on Unsplash



Tale of Temptation

*I swear I didn't touch the roast,
Or nibble on the buttered toast.
The crumbs? They floated through the air!
That steak? It vanished—I wouldn't dare.
Trust me, I'm as shocked as you!*

*The garbage tipped? A puzzling scene,
Perhaps the wind - or that cat so keen.
The scent arose, too rich, too sweet,
A banquet sprawled beneath my feet.
Who could resist such a tempting treat?*

*I'll drop my head and droop my ears,
Deploying all my guilty gears.
Forgive the thief, for how could I lie?
Your cooking is much too good to deny.
Now, can we talk about dessert?*

Or in the voice of the pet!

[Understanding Poetry: Tale of Temptation - Studyladder Interactive Learning Games](#)

These teaching resources have been created by Susmita Bhattacharya for Winchester Poetry Festival for caregivers and educators to use to inspire young people to enter Hampshire Young Poets competition 2026.

Hampshire Young Poets competition is run as a partnership between Winchester Poetry Festival and Hampshire Cultural Trust