



HOT TAMALES! Journal

NOTE: This lesson can address the following Common Core State Standards: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.K.1, W.1.1, W.2.1, W.3.1, W.4.1, W.5.1, W.K.3, W.1.3, W.2.3, W.3.3, W.4.3, W.5.3, L.1.2.A, L.1.2.C and L.2.2.B.

For this lesson you'll need:

One set of chopsticks for each student and 1-2 boxes of Hot Tamales candy.

Now for the steps!

1. First, tell the story line: *You're going to try to eat Hot Tamales candy using a pair of chopsticks. Then, you're going to write about the experience as well as your thoughts about the candy and using chopsticks.*
2. Explain to the students that a journal is a great place to jot down your most honest feelings; excitement, frustration, disappointment, angst, fear, anger, humor etc.
3. Explain to the students that they're going to try eating HOT TAMALES (the candy) using CHOPSTICKS!
4. Discuss how this can generate so many different thoughts and feelings:

"Someone may love chewy candy but hate the spicy cinnamon. Or another may love the spicy cinnamon and hate the chewy candy stuck in their teeth. People may be completely discouraged having to use the chopsticks or tickled and giggly trying to do so."

5. Show the 5 sections:

Introduction
The Experience
Hot Tamales Opinion
Chopsticks Opinion
Conclusion

Remember: K-1st Graders are encouraged to write 1 sentence for each section,
2nd Graders 2 sentences, 3rd Graders 3 sentences and so on.



6. Give students time to eat the Hot Tamales using chopsticks. Clean up and then write!

Now to write!

Guide the students through the following steps.

1. On the 1st line, right side, write the date.
2. Skip a line.
3. On the 3rd line, left side, write the greeting, *Dear Journal,*
4. Skip a line.
5. On the 5th line, left side, write an introduction using 1-2 sentences:

You won't believe what I had to do at writing camp today! I had to eat Hot Tamales using chopsticks!

6. Write about the whole experience (fun/or not, many students/few students, easy or hard, surprising or exciting etc.)
7. Write your opinion about the Hot Tamales candy (spicy cinnamon, chewy, spicy food or candy in general)
8. Write about using chopsticks

Describe your attempts. Was it your first time? Did you already know how? Did you like it or not? Why or why not? Mention the many people who do use chopsticks around the world.

9. Write a conclusion using 1-2 sentences:

I hope I never have to do that again!

OR

Wow, that was surprisingly easy and yummy! I'm going to use chopsticks more often to eat my candy. Ha Ha!

10. Under the conclusion and in the center of the paper write the salutation: (Your Friend,)
11. **Under** the salutation write your name.