



SUMMER MEAL ACTIVITY

Put Some Squash in Your Story!



Activity Information

Grade Level: 2nd-4th

Objective: students will learn literacy and writing skills.

Materials: Children's books, blank paper, pencils, crayons/markers

Time: 25 min lesson

Credit: Put Local on Your Tray

1. Start off by reading a Zucchini themed book! (We recommend *Eating the Alphabet* by Lois Elhert; *I Heard it from Alice Zucchini* by Juanita Havill; and *Zora's Zucchini* by Katherine Pryor).
2. Use the story or book to spark students' interest- start asking questions about the story to individual students- "can you think of a different ending?" or "what was your favorite part"
3. Break the students up into smaller teams, and have them react to the story in different ways!
 - a. Students can write a poem about a specific part of the book
 - b. Students can write a continuation of the story- ask them "what happened next"
 - c. Students can write an alternate version of the story
 - d. Students can act out the story
 - e. Students can illustrate parts of the story not shown in the book.

Make it shorter: No time to read a full book to your students? See if they can simply write a poem about zucchini or a story about zucchini themselves. Or, as you read a book, don't show the pictures, and instead, have the students draw out the story as you read it to them. Students who want to can present their pictures at the end!