



PUT LOCAL ON YOUR TRAY

## SUMMER MEAL ACTIVITY



## #SquashSquad Authors: Poetry/Writing Contest



### Activity Information

**Grade Level:** 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>

**Objective:** students will create stories or poems around the theme of zucchini, allowing them to practice their reading and writing skills in the summer

**Materials:** Blank or lined paper, pencils

**Time:** 30 min lesson

**Credit:** Put Local on Your Tray

1. Create contest parameters (*when is the deadline, how long can the submitted pieces be, how will they be submitted and to whom?*)
2. Decide who will review the poems (creating a panel of interested youth judges can be fun!)
3. Create a rubric with which to judge the poems (e.g. creativity -1 point, emotional impact -1 point, references zucchini - 1 point)
4. Present the contest rules to students during the summer meal. Pass out blank sheets of paper, markers/crayons, and tell them they can bring back a finished poem and/or story about zucchini next week.
5. Decide on awards + recognition for those that submitted a piece!
6. Have students present their poems/stories one week, and the judges can vote on the winner(s)!

**Make it shorter:** Want students to create the stories/poems all on the same day? Make it collaborative: break up the group into teams, and as a team students can create a story or poem. Each child can write one line or verse! Prompt students to switch up the type of poem- acrostics, limericks, and haikus are great!