



A TASTE OF UNITY

OBJECTIVE:

- Students will understand the significance of varenyky (Ukrainian dumplings) in Ukrainian culture.
- Students will recognize the importance of community involvement and unity in addressing social issues.
- Students will practice vocabulary from the essay.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Whiteboard/markers
- Printed copies of the text "A Taste of Unity"
- Pictures of varenyky (see page 5)
- Art supplies for a group activity

PREPARE TO READ

1. Get students' attention

- Provide background information about Ukraine if necessary.
- Discuss students' prior knowledge about Ukrainian cuisine and culture. Ask students if they have ever tried varenyky, or if they know anything about this dish.
- Share the pictures on page 5 with students and briefly discuss what fillings they think varenyky might be made with (a cloud of words or mind map).

2. Connect to students' experiences

- Ask: Does your country have food festivals? What are some foods you can try at a food festival?

3. Guess: What will happen?

- Establish the purpose for reading: to understand the significance of varenyky in Ukrainian culture and the impact of community festivals.
- Survey the text: examine the title, headings, and scan for key information.
- Complete a K-W-L chart: what students Know, what they Want to learn. (See page 6 of this lesson plan.)
- Make predictions about the content based on the title and initial scan.

4. Preview vocabulary

- Preview these 10 vocabulary items with the students.
 - *Lyceum* –n. the name for a type of secondary school in several countries.
 - *aroma* –n. the nice smell of something spreading through the air, such as food or perfume
 - *waft* – v. to (cause to) move gently through the air.
 - *purpose* –n. the reason or goal of doing something
 - *assistance*—n. help or aid given
 - *flee*—v. to escape and move or run away from danger
 - *culinary* –adj. relating to cooking
 - *varieties* –n. types, or kinds
 - *tasty* -adj. having a good flavor
 - *beacon* –n. a bright light; a hopeful or inspiring sign or symbol
 - *defend* -v. to protect against attack

READ & LISTEN

Identify and mark

- Visualize scenes from the text and illustrate/draw them if possible.
- Identify and mark language structures such as tense and prepositions.

Teacher's Guide A Taste of Unity

- Vocabulary: identify and mark the 10 vocabulary items and/or any unknown words. Play the audio recording for each vocabulary word to practice pronunciation. Students can also record themselves saying the words and then compare their pronunciation with the recording.
- Mark content details such as reasons, places, feelings, and other important information.

RESPOND

1. Check understanding with specific questions

- What is the significance of varenyky in Ukrainian culture, according to the text?
- How does the festival described in the text promote unity and community involvement?
- What social issues were addressed through the festival, and how?
- Why do you think events like this are important for both the community and individuals in need?

2. Talk more about the story

- Ask students what they liked, what made them think, what parts they want to read again.
- Ask students to revisit their KWL chart and write what they learned.
- Make a “one-pager” – a single page with meaningful quotes, analysis, and questions about the topic of the story.

EXPAND

1. Expand and summarize the essay

Depending on time and level of students, you might do any or all of the following activities:

- Compare the festival described in the text with festivals or cultural events in students' own countries.
- Discuss ways in which students can apply the lessons learned from the text to their own lives and communities. Students can research topics related to cultural celebrations, unity, and community involvement.
- Have each student write a short reflection on what they learned from the text and the discussion.
- Ask volunteers to share their reflections with the class.
- Summarize the key points of the lesson, emphasizing the importance of unity, community involvement, and making a difference at any age.

2. Create an “interview” with the individual presented in the story

- Students pretend to be an interviewer or interviewee. Each student writes questions about Ukraine, its capital and national dishes in their notebooks.
- Divide the class into two groups, interviewers, and interviewees. They take turns interviewing one or more other students. Then have the students switch roles and repeat.

3. Fill in the “What Am I Thinking?” chart

- Give students the handout on page 7. Ask them to reflect on what they This graphic organizer encourages students to use four different strategies during reading: forming opinions, describing reactions, making connections, and visualizing. These strategies can help students monitor comprehension and make sure they are reading actively.
- For detailed instructions on using this graphic organizer, see https://irrc.education.uiowa.edu/sites/irrc.education.uiowa.edu/files/2023-09/What%20Am%20I%20Thinking_2023.pdf

4. Write an essay

- Assign students to write a short essay reflecting on how they can contribute to their community and promote unity, inspired by the lesson and the text "A Taste of Unity."

ASSESSMENT

- Assess students' participation in the discussion and group activity.
- Evaluate students' understanding of the text through their reflections and any written assignments.

Ukrainian Varenyky



Teach Us About Ukraine is produced by GoGlobal Ukraine and Voice of America Learning English. Find more lessons at <https://learningenglish.voanews.com/>

Topic: *A Taste of Unity*

Before you read, think about the topic. What do you know already about it? Write it in the K column. Ask yourself, "What do I want to know about the topic?" Write it in the W column. After you read, think, "What did I learn?" Write it in the L column.

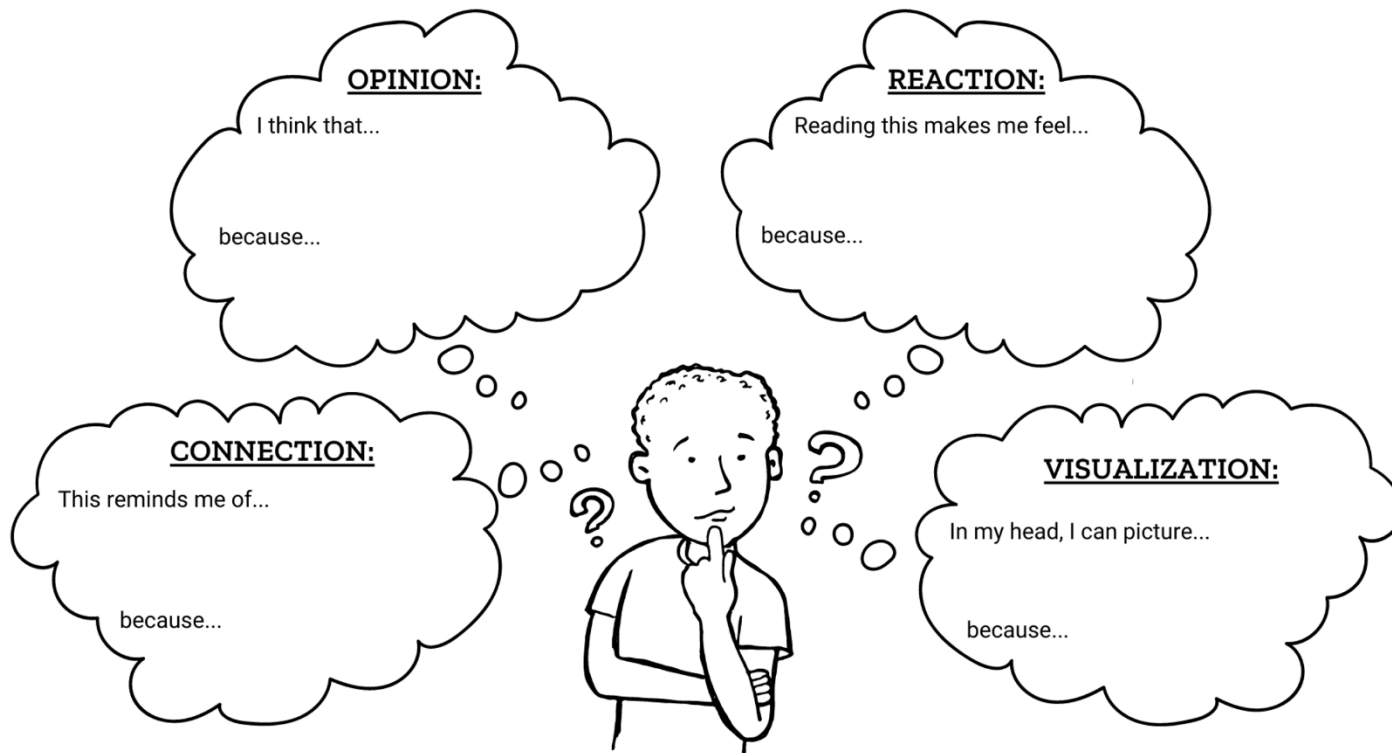
K
Know

W
Want to Know

L
Learned

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What Am I Thinking?



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