

You will work through some tasks to help you prepare a piece of writing to enter the Orwell Youth Prize, on the theme of ...

## 'A NEW DIRECTION: STARTING SMALL'



### LESSON 4 – Food Glorious Food: write what you eat

**1. Watching:** warm up with a Vindaloo! Among the small things that George Orwell wrote about were pop culture: comics for boys, seaside postcards, the perfect pub. They were looked down on, but he found them interesting and significant. We'll never know if he would have liked 'Vindaloo' by Fat Les – a football anthem for the men's England team in 1998 – but he might well have enjoyed its boisterous mingling of pride, celebration and laughing at yourself. Watch it – ideally along with someone older who can help you recognise the people and ideas that are jumbled together in it. (5 minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KaBdajHOsSM>

#### **2. Thinking:**

**List** Think about and list the mixture of visual references within the Vindaloo video: the people, clothes, uniforms and objects. Some might be considered typically 'British' such as the Pearly King and Queen; others hint at outside influence. The video includes lots of stereotypes, so think about the impact they have on the viewer and how they mix. (10 minutes)

**Describe** What does the video make you think about England and being English – or not being English? (5 minutes)

**Respond.** Some people disliked the song and video as yobbish and silly whereas others loved its playful love of English life. How does it make you feel – and why? (You could look up the history of Vindaloo to develop your thinking.)

<https://www.livehistoryindia.com/history-in-a-dish/2018/01/20/vindaloo-the-curry-of-the-lads>  
(5 minutes)

#### **3. Reading:** Orwell, 'In defence of English cooking' (5 minutes)

<https://www.orwellfoundation.com/the-orwell-foundation/orwell/essays-and-other-works/in-defence-of-english-cooking/>

Use Orwell as a model. Find and pick out two examples here of how he makes particular foods sound appealing. Make a note of why his words are successful in the two examples. (5 minutes)

**4. Planning writing: 'Food Glorious Food: Small Pleasures'** Plan to describe your favourite meal to make your reader's mouth water. (15 minutes total) 3 steps:

- ❖ Decide on your favourite food or meal. You are going to describe it, using all five senses. **BRAINSTORM** or mindmap your feelings in five areas, one for each sense. (5 minutes)
- ❖ Next, move to the **PLAN**. Decide the best order in which to write your description – by numbering your brainstormed areas. This will be your sequence. (5 minutes)
- ❖ Now think of a good **sentence to LINK** each paragraph to the next and write each one down. It can come at the end of the old paragraph or the start of the new one. (5 minutes)
- ❖ You are now ready to write your description – but consider the extensions ...

EXTENSIONS ... to develop the depth and reach of your writing

**'Guilty Pleasures'**: research how your food is grown or prepared or cooked. Make notes on its ethical or environmental costs, e.g. animal welfare, excessive use of resources, etc. Include these costs of your food in your description – and how they could be reduced with a different approach.

**'Innocent Pleasures'**: explore how your food relates to your family or culture; come up with arguments for why your chosen food is the best – and how to maximise its winning qualities, eg sauce made to my granddad's recipe ...

**'Shared Pleasures'**: research food poverty and include a paragraph about how society can ensure that everyone has access to good food – and what that means.

**Skills?** \* Start with small things that are important to you, to write with conviction \*