

PBS Lesson Series

ELA, Grade 6, Lesson 20

Teacher Packet

Where in the world is Laos?





“A Taste of Sticky Rice, Laos’ National Dish”

(14) Sticky rice grows in Laotian lowlands and uplands. Lowland farmers plant it in flooded paddies; upland farmers intercrop it on hillsides with companion crops like taro, cassava, and chili peppers. Because hillsides generally receive less-predictable supplies of water than paddies do, hillside rice fields tend to be more susceptible to drought.



Source: [MSN](#)



L20-C

“A Taste of Sticky Rice, Laos’ National Dish”

(8) But sticky rice is still the primary staple in Laos and parts of the five countries bordering it: China, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam. In Laos, slightly larger in area than Utah, per-capita sticky rice consumption is the highest on earth at more than 345 pounds per year. The average American, by contrast, eats less than 20 pounds of rice annually, according to the United States Drug Administration.



“A Taste of Sticky Rice, Laos’ National Dish”

But Evans, the author of several books about Laos, also says he doesn’t know a single Laotian person who never eats sticky rice. From a cultural perspective, he explained, sticky rice is still “the way the Lao identify themselves.”

Sticky rice figures in religious traditions across Laos, where the predominant faith is Theravada Buddhism... During the popular baci ceremony, uncooked sticky rice grains are tossed into the air after communal prayers. And when a Laotian is dying, a village elder may rub sticky rice on the person and throw the rice away to banish bad spirits.

The threat of hunger didn’t diminish their hospitality.



Text Analysis T-Chart

Text	Analysis

“Ode to Kao Niew - Sticky Rice”

By: Krysada Phounsiri

I meet you in Laos
as a seed
just a simple
existence of hard rice

- Who is “I” ?
- Who is “you”?

Text Analysis T-Chart

Text	Analysis
1. “I meet you”	1. The speaker meets sticky rice

“Ode to Kao Niew - Sticky Rice”

By: Krysada Phounsiri

I meet you in Laos
as a seed
just a simple
existence of hard rice
seeded inside Huay Xai's dirt
until water plains
cradle and nourish your infant body

Text Analysis T-Chart

Text	Analysis
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. "I meet you"2. "Huay Xai"3. "Water plains"4. "Infant body"	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The author meets sticky rice2. A town in Laos3. Rice paddies4. Rice seeds

“Ode to Kao Niew - Sticky Rice”

By: Krysada Phounsiri

'till you sprout above water banks
where you tickle yourself
with sunshine
like a child who spends all
day with the wind



Text Analysis T-Chart

Text	Analysis
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. "I meet you"2. "Huay Xai"3. "Water plains"4. "Infant body"5. Like a child who spends all day with the wind	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The author meets sticky rice2. A town in Laos3. Rice paddies4. Rice seeds5. Rice plants growing and blowing in the wind (simile)

“Ode to Kao Niew - Sticky Rice”

By: Krysada Phounsiri

when you mature
people pull your roots
carry you in bulk back home
along with your friends



Text Analysis T-Chart

Text	Analysis
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. "I meet you"2. "Huay Xai"3. "Water plains"4. "Infant body"5. Like a child who spends all day with the wind6. Your friends	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The author meets sticky rice2. A town in Laos3. Rice paddies4. Rice seeds5. Rice plants growing and blowing in the wind (simile)6. Other grains of sticky rice (personification)

“Ode to Kao Niew - Sticky Rice”

By: Krysada Phounsiri

moisten your skin
steam under flames and
boiling water
only a bath where
dirt splashes off
while you try to hold
breaths underwater
your skin does not wrinkle
only softens
to stick with other rice
and sink in perfection



Source: [Sticky Rice Recipes](#)

Text Analysis T-Chart

Text	Analysis
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. "I meet you"2. "Huay Xai"3. "Water plains"4. "Infant body"5. Like a child who spends all day with the wind6. Your friends7. Holds breaths underwater	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The author meets sticky rice2. A town in Laos3. Rice paddies4. Rice seeds5. Rice plants growing and blowing in the wind (simile)6. Other grains of sticky rice (personification)7. To show how rice is cooked (personification)

“Ode to Kao Niew - Sticky Rice”

By: Krysada Phounsiri

to stick with other rice
and sink in perfection
of the basket
where my mother's hands
shake and shuffle you
into a ball
to roll on a plate
now fully grown ready to
liberate our hunger
with your body
that is how we meet



Source: [Sticky Rice Recipes](#)

Text Analysis T-Chart

Text	Analysis
1. "I meet you"	1. The author meets sticky rice
2. "Huay Xai"	2. A town in Laos
3. "Water plains"	3. Rice paddies
4. "Infant body"	4. Rice seeds
5. Like a child who spends all day with the wind	5. Rice plants growing and blowing in the wind (simile)
6. Your friends	6. Other grains of sticky rice (personification)
7. Breaths underwater	7. To show how rice is cooked (personification)
8. Now fully grown	8. Ready to eat

“Ode to Kao Niew - Sticky Rice”

By: Krysada Phounsiri

everyday even now
when I chew you in big bites
you never fail to fill
my head with steam
and make my tummy your
cozy home
sometimes I eat you too fast
you burn my tongue



Source: [Food of Laos](#)

“Ode to Kao Niew - Sticky Rice”

By: Krysada Phounsiri

and mom says
I am crazy for eating too fast
but it don't matter
when I can cool
squeeze to pebble-size bits
dip you in fish soup
or papaya salad
Kao Niew
my family sits together
on the floor legs folded

or on a dinner table
you cuddle inside our bellies
warm our lips
all
the way
down
our throats
in cold evenings with no heaters
you sacrifice to
fill our stomachs
so we can stick to each other
and swallow
our love whole



Source: [Family Meal](#)

Text Analysis T-Chart

Text	Analysis
1. "I meet you"	1. The author meets sticky rice
2. "Huay Xai"	2. A town in Laos
3. "Water plains"	3. Rice paddies
4. "Infant body"	4. Rice seeds
5. Like a child who spends all day with the wind	5. Rice plants growing and blowing in the wind (simile)
6. Your friends	6. Other grains of sticky rice (personification)
7. Breaths underwater	7. To show how rice is cooked (personification)
8. Now fully grown	8. Ready to eat
9. Our/We	

Text Analysis T-Chart

Text	Analysis
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. "I meet you"2. "Huay Xai"3. "Water plains"4. "Infant body"5. Like a child who spends all day with the wind6. Your friends7. Breaths underwater8. Now fully grown9. Our/We	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The author meets sticky rice2. A town in Laos3. Rice paddies4. Rice seeds5. Rice plants growing and blowing in the wind (simile)6. Other grains of sticky rice (personification)7. To show how rice is cooked (personification)8. Ready to eat9. The speaker's family

“Ode to Kao Niew - Sticky Rice”

By: Krysada Phounsiri

and mom says
I am crazy for eating too fast
but it don't matter
when I can cool
squeeze to pebble-size bits
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Kao Niew
my family sits together
on the floor legs folded

or on a dinner table
you cuddle inside our bellies
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in cold evenings with no heaters
you sacrifice to
fill our stomachs
so we can stick to each other
and swallow
our love whole



Source: [Family Meal](#)

Text Analysis T-Chart

Text	Analysis
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. “I meet you”2. “Huay Xai”3. “Water plains”4. “Infant body”5. Like a child who spends all day with the wind6. Your friends7. Breaths underwater8. Now fully grown9. Our/We10. So we can stick to each other	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The author meets sticky rice2. A town in Laos3. Rice paddies4. Rice seeds5. Rice plants growing and blowing in the wind (simile)6. Other grains of sticky rice (personification)7. To show how rice is cooked (personification)8. Ready to eat9. The narrator’s family10. Family sticks together like rice

Characteristics of an Ode

- purpose is to show love for something
- pays tribute to or praises something
- includes figurative language, like personification and simile
- uses descriptive language to explain everyday actions, events, or things
- uses specific word choice to create a positive tone
- may include multiple layers of meaning

Independent Activity

Write an ode about a food that is significant to you. You may write about the same food that you wrote about in lesson 17, or you can choose a new type of food.

Make sure that your writing uses the various characteristics of odes that we discussed:

- purpose is to show love for something
- pays tribute to or praises something
- includes figurative language, like personification and simile
- uses descriptive language to explain everyday actions, events, or things
- uses specific word choice to create a positive tone
- may include multiple layers of meaning

Also, feel free to use the poem as an example. Your ode should be at least 20 lines. It may rhyme or be in free verse.