

MINI-LESSON

DESCRIBING A STRAWBERRY

(Inspired by Cosmic Oranges – NCTE ReadWriteThink)

This activity will set students on the path to engaged, curious observing and describing. Divide class into groups of 3 or 4 students. Give each group a few strawberries and tell them to appoint a note taker.

TEACHER

Imagine that you're trying to tell someone from a distant land how much you love strawberries—but the person has never seen, tasted or even heard of strawberries. What words would you use to give this stranger a sense of how a strawberry looks, feels, smells, and tastes? Give your note-taker the most precise words and phrases you can come up with.

(As each note-taker reports, writes words and phrases on the board, grouping them by sense and discussing which are most effective and why.)

