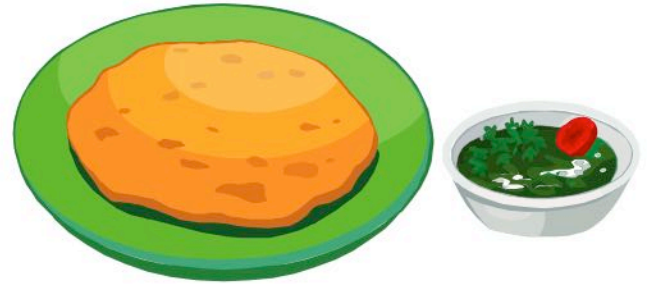


# Curry Time!

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Erik was at school, ready to eat lunch. Once a month, his school cooked something from another country and called it 'ethnic food day.' Sometimes it was European food, like Italian or something similar. Other times it was Asian food. Often, it was Spanish food. It was just their way to get kids to try different things.



Most kids complained when ethnic food days came by. "Where are the French fries?" They whined. Everyone always wanted pizza, chicken nuggets, burgers, and French fries. It was pretty dull stuff, and it was all tan or brown colored. Erik remembered reading that he should never eat a meal that was all ONE color. That meant it didn't have a good variety of nutrients. Even a pile of lettuce wasn't good for you compared to a salad with red onions, tomatoes, and carrots on it, because more colors meant more nutrition. So, Erik didn't mind trying the new foods, but his parents had always raised him not to be picky.

Today's food was curry. It was interesting, because it was more Middle-Eastern or even Indian, rather than the normal areas their food got its inspiration from. At first, Erik didn't know what to think. It looked like a pile of yellow beef stew. It had the meat and vegetables, but it wasn't covered in brown stew gravy. Instead, it was covered in yellow, fragrant sauce. The sauce smelled a little bit like cinnamon, but also some other spices he didn't know.

With spoon in hand – and a fork for the side salad – Erik dug in. His first bite was surprising. Beef stew gravy just tasted like greasy beef. This tasted like a whole lot of things. It was a little spicy, but it had so many strong herbs and spices. The texture was good, too, because it was on top of a bed of rice. He ate a few more bites, savoring it. It was really quite decent.

Around him, the pickier children were turning up their noses. One watched in disgust as he ate, probably wondering how he could eat it. "Hey, it's food." Erik replied to the unasked question. Some people just needed to learn to try stuff and like it. Nobody likes a complainer. As for him, he finished his whole plate!

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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. Where is Erik eating his lunch?
  - A. at home
  - B. at a restaurant
  - C. at school
  - D. in a café
  
2. What does the school call the special food day event once a month?
  - A. Mystery Lunch Day
  - B. Ethnic Food Day
  - C. Eat Something New Day
  - D. Try A New Food Day
  
3. What style of food is served this time?
  - A. Asian
  - B. Spanish
  - C. European
  - D. Middle-Eastern/Indian
  
4. How does Erik like the curry?
  - A. He thinks it is okay.
  - B. He likes it enough to finish it all.
  - C. He thinks it is gross.
  - D. He never wants to eat it again.
  
5. How does Erik feel about the kids who complained about their food?
  - A. He thinks they just need to eat it.
  - B. He thinks they are funny.
  - C. He hates their attitudes.
  - D. He agrees with them.

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