

# ***Ode to Asparagus***

**Glen Lake Community Library: June 4, 2022**



## ***Beautiful Asparagus***

*by Katie Seitz Weisenbarger*

Green and purple,  
crisp and hot,  
snaps apart  
at the perfect spot;  
Without this, please  
do not get caught.  
It's beautiful asparagus.

Seasoned, sautéed,  
baked and broiled,  
steamed and fried  
and lightly oiled;  
I'll even eat it  
slightly spoiled.  
It's beautiful asparagus.

Pick it often;  
Cook it well.  
Did you eat some?  
Can you tell?  
In the restroom,  
what's that smell?  
It's beautiful asparagus.

## ***Asparagus Acrostic***

*by Alison Arthur*

**A**rise from around mid May  
**S**un warmth coaxes lily family tips  
**P**osture to envy this nutritional powerhouse  
**A**rray of colors purple green white  
**R**ather prolific once started  
**A**ntioxidant rich high fiber veggie  
**G**irth wider more rose tones this year  
**U**rine odor unique for some  
**S**pears sautéed with ramps sublime

## ***Asparagus Performance Art***

*by Jenna and Matt*

The darkness fades as the stage lights slowly warm up the setting. Jenna and Matt are introduced to the poetry audience. They walk on stage carrying a bongo and other poetry supplies. Jenna sets up the bongo stage left as Matt lights incense at stage center and settles into his favorite poetry reading chair.

Jenna plays a few beats on the bongos to let the audience know the reading is about to take place.

MATT

Today we will be performing an acrostic in the name of asparagus!

JENNA Makes four beats on the bongo.

MATT

Asparagus! A: All around best tasting vegetable.

JENNA Makes three beats on the bongo.

MATT

S: Sprouts from the ground.

JENNA Makes three beats on the bongo.

MATT

P: Pretty sure I love asparagus.

JENNA Makes three beats on the bongo.

MATT

A: Amazing in my mouth!

JENNA Makes three beats on the bongo

MATT

R: Rich in Thiamin, Riboflavin, Niacin, Pantothenic Acid, Folate, and 3% of your daily value of Choline.

JENNA holds up a sign reading "BASED ON A 2000 CALORIE DIET" and then makes three beats on the bongo.

MATT

A: Ahhhhhh.....

JENNA looks at Matt expecting something more, realizes nothing is coming, and then makes three beats on the bongo.

MATT

G: Green radiating stalks.

JENNA Makes three beats on the bongo.

MATT

U: .....also love asparagus!

JENNA Makes three beats on the bongo.

MATT

S: So thankful asparagus has brought us all together here today.

JENNA hits a single note on the gong, Matt slowly puts out the incense as the stage lights fade.

## ***An Ode to Growing Seasons***

*by Mae Stier*

In early May, I lay down to watch the asparagus grow,  
timid at first, as the spring sun emerged  
slowly, too. But then light and warmth  
returned, and the asparagus shot up like trees,  
arms stretching to the blue sky. Warm days  
beckoned them upward, and soon they gained  
a foot between morning and night. I blinked  
and missed their harvest, instead letting them  
go to fern, seeding in the late-spring sun. All along,  
I lay next to them in the garden, trying to listen  
for the growth that felt comical, so sudden  
and vigorous. All along, my son traipsed around me,  
touching the asparagus as they grew up with him,  
reaching for their ferns when they surpassed  
even his brisk growth. And I lay in the garden,  
watching it all grow up around me, willing  
it to flourish and yet still, to slow down,  
to give me the chance to catch the harvest,  
to hold it all close  
just a little longer.

## ***Fresh from the Garden, a Toddler's Perspective***

*Inspired by Daniel Egeler (son of Mae Stier & Tim Egeler)*

Daniel bites into  
an asparagus, declares  
“mmm, it tastes like cake.”

## ***Untitled***

*by Stephanie McKinlay*

Hello, Asparagus  
Is it your time again?  
Short and sweet and good to eat  
Before you grow your hair and  
Shake it in summer sun.

**Green Force**  
*by Athena Gillespie*

**Audience Choice Award**

There is power in a certain green vegetable  
Power that its kin do not possess.  
The onion merely cries  
While the leeks are just bystanders.  
But not asparagus.  
This plant wields a spear,  
Rough and weathered,  
Layered and intricate.  
Evident and intentional.  
This plant holds a weapon.

As we eat and talk and walk about this green force,  
It waits for battle.  
I read somewhere that  
Roman Emperor Caesar Augustus would call to his troops,  
“Velocius quam asparagi coquantur!”  
Loosely translated from the ages meaning  
“Faster than cooking asparagus!”

So you see,  
This delicacy is much more than a luxurious edible experience,  
Or the soup your father makes in the summer,  
Or the perfect crunch worthy of a steak garnish.  
This plant was made for war.  
Asparagus, oh asparagus,  
Lead us onto the battlefield.  
Teach us to move with fury.  
Instill in our hearts a sense of determination.

I’ve never liked war.  
But if asparagus was my officer,  
I would wield a spear just as it does,  
hearing the echoes of Augustus in my mind.  
Velocius quam asparagi coquantur!

For one may be able to crawl to glory without you,  
But oh, how unsatisfying of a fight.

## ***Asparagus-19***

*by Joseph Povolito*

If you have a cough and are not feeling well,  
maybe you lost your taste and smell.  
If you have a fever or a runny nose,  
I have a remedy I shall propose.

Coronasparagus is not a disease,  
in fact it's the cure as you shall see.  
Recommended by Fauci and Dr. Brix,  
sure to cure your ills and be the fix.

Don't blame Wuhan or a flock of bats,  
buy asparagus by the vats.  
Of course you could get the vaccine,  
but injecting asparagus will keep you clean.

You may wear a mask and sanitize,  
but asparagus-19 is the real prize.  
Social distancing is fine for a while,  
but seeing asparagus will make you smile.

Asparagus-19 is surely not deadly,  
with a steak and potato it makes quite a medley.  
Pair it with fish, pair it with rice,  
just wash your hands at least once or twice.

If you have any symptoms, get a test,  
and quarantine and get some rest.  
So when you are at that meeting on Zoom,  
sneak a bite of asparagus in a break-out room.

Avoid super-spreaders and shaking hands,  
avoid any travel to foreign lands.  
But eat asparagus every day,  
and the pandemic will soon fade away.

A K95 may keep you alive,  
but coronasparagus will help you thrive.  
A booster is needed now and then,  
but Asparagus-19 is the antigen.

Don't fear Delta or Omicron,  
a new variant will soon come along.  
So take my advice and heed this warning,  
eat two spears of asparagus,  
and call me in the morning.

***Asparagus Cinquain***  
*by Susan Glassmeyer*

Grill me.  
Steam me. Quiche me.  
Boil me, braise me, blanch. Even  
Your green smoothie, I promise to  
Enhance.

***Asparagus the Beautiful*** (sung to the tune of “America the Beautiful”)  
*by Janet Bednarz*

Oh beautiful asparagus,  
You are our favorite spear.  
We celebrate your gifts to us  
In Empire every year!

*Refrain:*

Asparagus, asparagus,  
God shed Her grace on thee!  
We honor you with grateful hearts,  
our springtime V.I.P. !

*Repeat refrain, with dramatic emphasis:*

Asparagus, asparagus,  
God shed Her grace on thee!  
We honor you with grateful hearts,  
our springtime V.I.P. !

***Asparaless Asparagus***

*by Cindy Giltner*

Tastes so good, asparagus  
Honks about, asparagoose  
Sticky dirt, asparagrease  
Wrap it up, asparagift

Mystery veg, asparaguess  
Greenish tone, asparaness  
Push flat, asparapress  
Not enough, asparaless

***ASPARAGUS***

*by Susan Muenzer*

Always Special, Particularly After Rain Augments Green Upright Stems.

***Untitled***

*by John K. Shubitowski*

Behold the green asparagus,  
Such a tasty fellow!  
If only it would spare us,  
Our water turning yellow!

## ***The Time of the Asparagus***

*by Finn Maria Kennedy (age 12)*

When the asparagus is ripe, in early May to late June  
When the stems ripen under the full moon  
And you can't wait until it's in your spoon  
And your happiness is enough to fill a balloon  
It's tender and sweet when properly cooked  
And maybe alien when overlooked  
But none's the matter, it's as sweet as pie  
A real vegetable one must buy  
When it's the color of the morning sky  
Carrots, and broccoli go good bye, good bye!  
Rich in green color  
Most is the duller  
Softly fading to white  
What a nice sight  
The tips are green and purple  
Never a perfect circle  
They shine like a ruby and like an emerald  
In the morning breeze they trembled  
With stems like scales  
Blow in the gales  
Leaves emerging from the underground  
Waiting, safe and sound  
And the feathery foliage  
The tasty stalks we salvage  
The time of the asparagus  
The flavors a full circus



## ***Ode to Asparagus Oscar***

*Anonymous (mailed from somewhere in Utah....)*

In the small town of Picket,  
Round a bend in the thicket,  
Lived young Oscar Wicket.  
Young Oscar loved Cricket,  
And Licket\* and Kicket\*

But one thing he hated, that Oscar Wicket,  
Was his mother's fresh stew,  
With an ounce of fresh asparagus too!

Oscar shouted "EW! EW! EW!"  
"Oscar you must try your stew!"  
"No! EW! EW! EW!"  
His mother was quite ready to cry, too,  
When she had an idea [EW! EW! EW!]

She made asparagus fried [EW! EW! EW!]  
And she tried asparagus plain with sauce on the side [EW! EW! EW!]  
And asparagus dried [EW! EW! EW!]  
Then asparagus gried\* [EW! EW! EW!]  
And set them all down before the young master Wicket [EW! EW! EW!]

Oscar stabbed his fork in the dried,  
And the asparagus fried,  
He tried the asparagus plain,  
And the asparagus gried!  
His mother sat down felling satisfied

"YUM! YUW! YUM!" screamed young Wicket.  
"I love this stuff dried,  
I love it gried!  
I love it plain with sauce on the side!  
Bust most of all, I love asparagus fried!"

Guide to Picket speak:

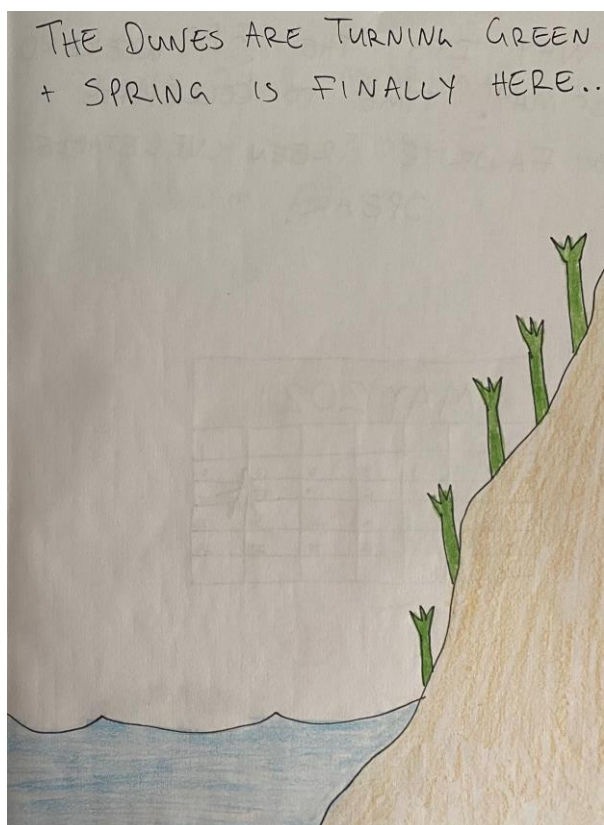
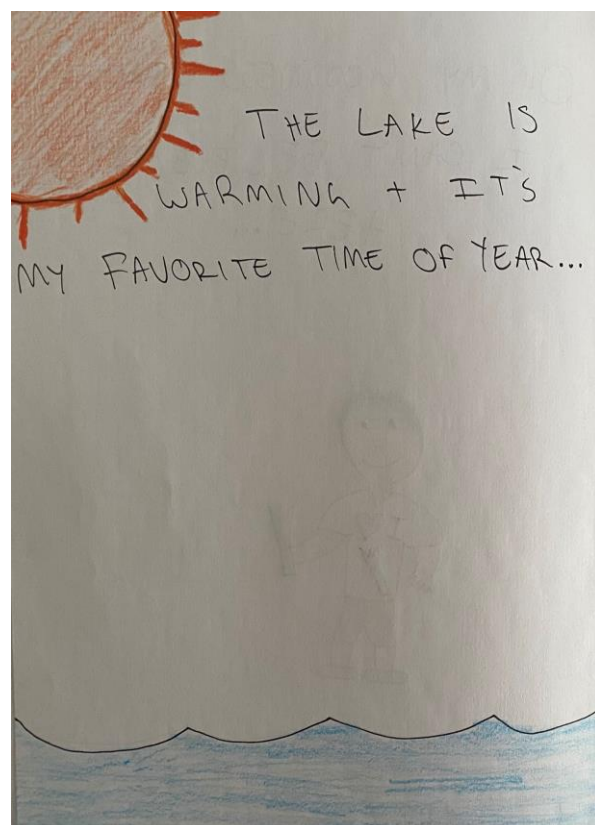
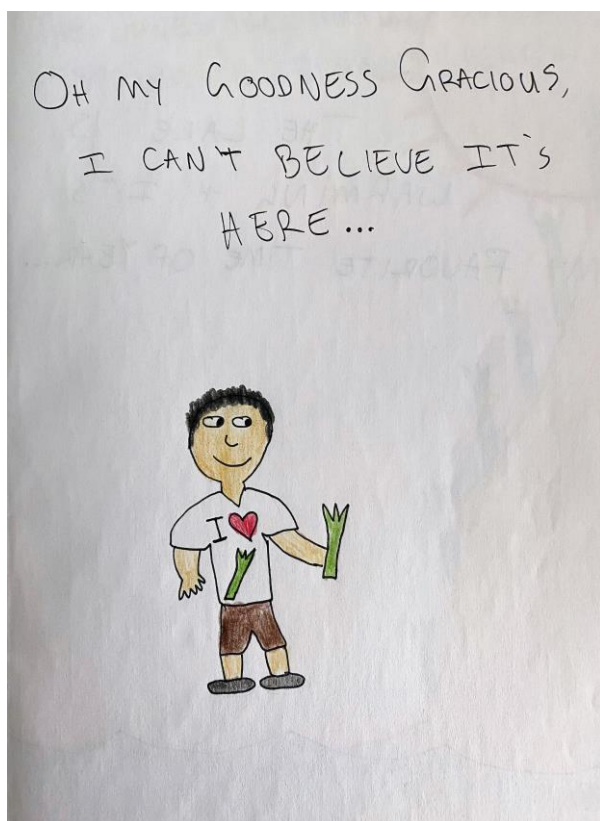
\*1 Licket is rather like a game of dares in which the participant is dared to lick things (I have never seen the appeal)

\*2 Kicket is like Soccer.

\*3 Gried is a way of grating then frying your vegetables.

## Asparagus: an illustrated Ode

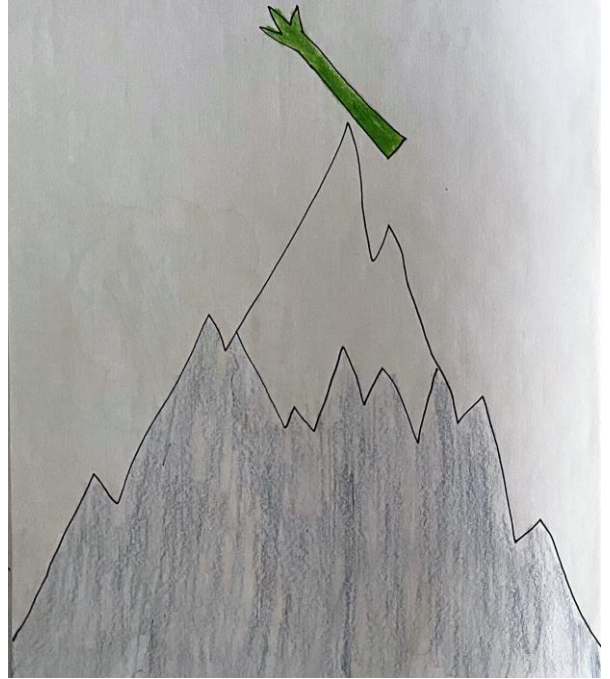
Sean Campillo



OH MY DEAR ASPARAGUS,  
IT'S ONLY YOU THAT I  
DREAM OF ...



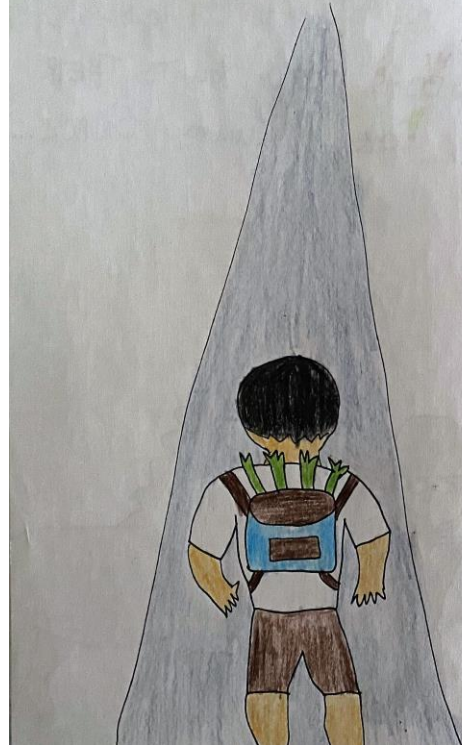
I'LL SHOUT IT FROM A MOUNTAIN TOP:  
"ASPARAGUS, IT'S YOU THAT I LOVE!"



COWBOYS FEED YOU TO THEIR  
HORSES, FOR A YUMMY SNACK...



HIKERS BRING YOU ON THE TRAILS, +  
EAT YOU OUT OF A BACK PACK!

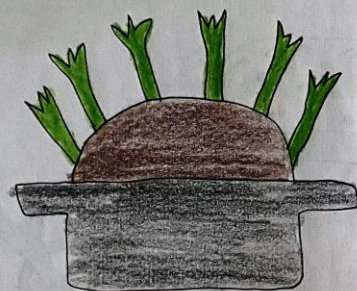




I WANT ASPARAGUS ON MY BURGER,



AND ASPARAGUS ON MY TOAST...



I'LL DICE YOU UP IN A  
CROCK POT WITH A LOVELY  
POT ROAST!

NINJAS SHOULD TRAIN WITH  
YOU INSTEAD OF THE NUMCHUCK...



AND LEPRECHAUNS CAN KEEP THEIR GOLD...  
EVERYONE KNOWS THAT IT'S ASPARAGUS  
AT THE END OF A RAINBOW THAT  
BRINGS YOU GOOD LUCK!





MY SWEET ASPARAGUS, I'LL TAKE  
YOU TO THE PROM + TAKE YOU TO  
THE MOVIE ...



THEN I'LL MIX YOU IN THE  
BLENDER, + WHIP YOU INTO A  
SMOOTHIE!



MY SUCCULENT STALKED VEGGIE,  
YOU BRING ME SO MUCH JOY AND  
CHEER ...

EMPIRE ASPARAGUS FESTIVAL!

I'm SO HAPPY TO CELEBRATE YOU  
AT THE EMPIRE ASPARAGUS FESTIVAL  
TODAY, + EVERY YEAR!